

First Sunday in the Season of Creation

Ocean Sunday

We worship with the surging seas



“Let the sea roar and all that fills it!” Psalm. 96.11

This Sunday we worship with the oceans of Earth, all designed by the Wisdom of God. We join the Psalmists and all the sea to roar with praise. We sing with the surging seas and celebrate the wondrous creatures of the watery deep. With our Creator, we rejoice with whales, dolphins, and other sea creatures. With the Spirit we groan with species that are suffering from human acts of pollution.

Introit Hymn

GATHERING IN GOD'S NAME

We gather in the name of the Spirit of God who hovered over the primal waters;
 in the name of the Word of God who parted the waters for Earth to appear;
 in the name of the Wisdom of God, who filled the deeps with amazing designs.

Holy! Holy! Holy!

The oceans are filled with God's presence.

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

Holy! Holy! Holy!

Earth is filled with your presence.

The Lord of all Life be with you.

And also with you.

Sentence:

“Let the sea roar and all that fills it!” Psalm. 96.11

The Gloria in Excelsis,

a suitable hymn of praise or the following may be said or sung.

Glory to God in the highest!

And on Earth peace with all creation!

The Collect of the Day.

God, our Creator, as we reflect on the mysteries of the ocean depths, we celebrate the wondrous design of the seas that

surround us. Help us to discern how we have polluted our oceans and to empathise with the groaning of creation beneath us. Teach us to sense the presence of God in the tides and currents of the surging seas. Teach us to care for the oceans and all our waterways. In the name of the Wisdom of God, the creative force that designs and governs all creation. **Amen.**

THE MINISTRY OF THE WORD

After each reading the reader may say

Hear the word of the Lord,
thanks be to God.

First Reading: Job 38:1-18

‘The Mysteries of Creation’. A portrait of how God constructed the universe, with deep domains and mysteries.

Psalm: 104:1-9, 24-26

‘A World Created by Wisdom’. The whole world is formed by the Wisdom of God thereby giving it all its discrete parts, laws, design and purpose.

Second Reading: Ephesians 1:3-10

‘Jesus is now the Cosmic Christ’. Christ, the Cosmic One, gathers all things together, unites the cosmos and fills the universe.

Gradual Hymn:

Gospel Reading: *The reader says*

The Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke 5:1-11

Glory to you Lord Jesus Christ.

‘Facing the Deep’. Jesus invites his friends to cast into the deep, the unknown. An even greater unknown faces the disciples.

After the Gospel, the reader says

For the Gospel of the Lord,
praise to you Lord Jesus Christ.

The Sermon

The following Affirmation of Faith may be used:

Let us together affirm what we believe:

God creates all things, renews all things and celebrates all things.

This we believe.

Earth is a sanctuary, a sacred planet filled with God’s presence, a home for us to share with our kin.

This we believe.

God became flesh and blood, a piece of Earth, a human being called Jesus Christ, who lived and breathed and spoke among us, suffered and died on a cross, for all human beings and for all creation.

This we believe.

The risen Jesus is the Christ at the centre of creation reconciling all things to God, renewing all creation and filling the cosmos.

This we believe.

The Holy Spirit renews life in creation, groans in empathy with a suffering creation, and waits with us for the rebirth of creation.

This we believe.

**We believe that with Christ we will rise
 and with Christ we will celebrate a new creation.**

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

The minister says: Let us pray for the oceans and for the world.

[beginning with]

**Jesus Christ, teach us to empathise with Earth.
 Make our spirits sensitive to the cries of creation,
 cries for justice from the air, the clouds and the sky.
 Jesus Christ, make our faith sensitive to the groans of the
 Spirit in creation, groans of longing for a new creation.
 Jesus Christ, make our hearts sensitive to the songs of our kin,
 songs of celebration from the stars, the rains and the light.
 Christ, teach us to care. Amen**

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

**Our Father in heaven,
 hallowed be your name,
 your kingdom come,
 your will be done,
 on earth as in heaven.**

Give us today our daily bread.

**Forgive us our sins
 as we forgive those who sin against us.**

**Save us from the time of trial
 and deliver us from evil.**

**For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours
 now and for ever. Amen.**

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

Invitation to Confession:

God is steadfast in love and infinite in mercy, welcoming sinners and inviting them to the Lord's table.

We remember times at the seashore or in the ocean that stirred our spirit or sense of wonder. We remember the sea with amazement. We remember the splash of waves on our feet, the sand between our toes and the mystery of an endless horizon stretching out across the ocean. We remember and rejoice. Thank you, God, for the oceans, living waters that are part of who we are.

Let us confess our sins against the oceans in penitence and faith, confident in God's forgiveness.

Confession

**Merciful God, our maker and our judge,
We remember and confess that we have killed reefs,
polluted seas and turned surrounding oceans
into domains to be conquered.**

**We are sorry that we have polluted Earth's waters with toxins,
and killed untold species in the ocean.**

We have turned our greed into global warming.

We have helped cause arctic regions to melt.

We have loved progress more than the planet.

We are sorry.

**Lord Jesus, teach us to love the seas
as a precious part of our planet home. Amen.**

The Absolution.

Almighty God,
who has promised forgiveness to all who turn to him in faith:
pardon you and set you free from all your sins,
strengthen you in all goodness
and keep you in eternal life;
enable you to celebrate Earth as your home
and preserve the waters of life in God's sanctuary,
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

The minister may add this Kyrie Eleison.

As we come home to Earth,
Christ, have mercy.
 As we seek to love our home,
Christ, have mercy.
 As we seek to care for our planet,
Christ, have mercy.

THE GREETING OF PEACE

Christ has reconciled us to God in one body by the cross.

We meet in Christ's name and share God's peace.

The peace of the Lord be always with you.

And also with you.

The Greeting of Peace may be shared by the people.

Offertory Hymn:

The gifts of the people are brought to the Lord's table.

A suitable prayer, such as the one that follows, may be used.

God, our Creator, through your love you have given us these gifts to share. Accept our offerings as an expression of our deep thanks and signs of our concern for those in need, including our fellow creatures on planet Earth.

**With all creation, we praise our Creator.
 Blessed be God forever.**

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

The priest takes the bread and wine for the communion, places them on the Lord's Table and says the following or an authorised Prayer of Thanksgiving.

The Creator be with you and all creation.

And also with you.

Open your hearts.

We open them to our Creator.

Let us give thanks to the Maker of heaven and earth.

It is right to join creation in thanking God.

It is right to give you thanks, loving Creator. Your Word is the impulse for all things to be, for space, stars and stardust to appear, for Earth to emerge from the deep, for life to be born of Earth and for humans to be born of Earth and the Spirit.

Your Spirit is the life impulse in all things, renewing the barren and healing the wounded, groaning in anticipation of a new creation, stirring a new life born of water and the Spirit.

You chose to be born a human being, to become a part of Earth, to suffer, die and rise from death to redeem humankind, renew creation, and affirm all born of Earth and the Spirit.

Your presence is the living impulse in all things, the Christ deep among us, filling Earth - land, sea and air - filling every element and place, filling the grain and the grape we share with you this day.

Therefore with angels and archangels, ancient voices in the forest, high voices from the sky, deep voices from the sea and the whole company of creation, we proclaim your presence among us.

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of all life,
 Earth and sea and sky are full of your presence
 and glorify your name.
 Hosanna in the highest.**

Holy God, we thank you
 for these gifts of your creation, this bread and wine,
 and we pray that we who eat and drink them
 in obedience to our Saviour Christ,
 by the power of the Holy Spirit,
 may be partakers of his body and blood,
 and be made one with him and with each other
 in peace and love.

On the night he was betrayed Jesus took bread;
 and when he had given you thanks
 he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying,
 'Take, eat. This is my body given for you.
 Do this in remembrance of me.'

After supper, he took the cup,
 and again giving you thanks
 he gave it to his disciples, saying,
 'Drink from this, all of you.
 This is my blood of the new covenant
 shed for you and for many
 for the forgiveness of sins.
 Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.'

The memorial acclamation.

Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

Therefore we do as our Saviour has commanded:
 proclaiming his offering of himself
 made once for all upon the cross,
 his mighty resurrection and glorious ascension,
 and looking for his coming again,
 we celebrate, with this bread and this cup,
 his one perfect and sufficient sacrifice
 for the sins of the whole world.

As we eat and drink this holy sacrament,
 renew us by your Spirit
 that we may be united in the body of your Son
 and serve you as a royal priesthood
 in the joy of your eternal kingdom.

Receive our praises, Father,
 through Jesus Christ our Lord,
 with whom and in whom,
 by the power of the Holy Spirit,
 we worship you in songs of never-ending praise:
**Blessing and honour and glory and power
 are yours for ever and ever. Amen.**

THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD AND THE COMMUNION

[We break this bread to share in the body of Christ.]
 We who are many are one body,
for we all share in the one bread.

[The gifts of God for the people of God.]
 Come let us take this holy sacrament of the body and blood of Christ
 in remembrance that he died for us, and feed on him in our hearts by
 faith with thanksgiving.

The sacrament is given with the following words:

The body of Christ [the bread of heaven] keep you in eternal life. **Amen.**

The blood of Christ [the cup of salvation] keep you in eternal life. **Amen.**

THE SENDING OUT OF GOD'S PEOPLE

Bountiful God,

at this table you graciously feed us
with the bread of life and the cup of eternal salvation.

May we who have reached out our hands to receive
this sacrament be strengthened in your service,
and become agents of healing for Earth and sea.

Christ calls us to be his disciples,
to serve him with love and compassion,
to serve Earth by caring for creation,
especially the oceans around us and all the life within them.

Most loving God,

**We will follow our crucified Lord,
listening for cries of injustice from the oceans,
and the groanings of creation.**

**We will follow the risen Christ
to become partners in healing our planet.**

**We will care for creation,
honouring the seas and celebrating life.**

The Blessing.

May the Spirit of God, who is above all and in all and through all, fill you with the knowledge of God's presence in Earth and the pulsing of Christ in creation, through whom all things are reconciled and renewed. And the blessing ... **Amen.**

The Dismissal:

Go in peace, serving Christ and loving Earth!

In the name of Christ. Amen.

Hymn: Song of the Waters

(Sung to the tune of *Praise, my Soul, the King of Heaven*)

1. Watch once more the
windswept storm clouds;
Suddenly the sky has wings!
God has come to rain among us,
Giving hope to all dry things.
Sing a song of splashing waters,
Pulsing through the veins of
Earth.

3. View anew the dark blue
ocean,
Whales cavorting, spraying foam;
God at play with deep sea
monsters,
Feeling very much at home.
Sing a song of laughing waters,
Pulsing through the veins of
Earth.

2. Taste the moisture of the
morning,
Smoother than the best red wine;
Toast the lifeblood of the planet:
Here's to God's wild wet design!
Sing a song of flowing waters,
Pulsing through the veins of
Earth.

4. Feel the breath of God move
softly,
Gentle mists that brush the skin;
Earth is breathing God's own
spirit,
Life renewed from deep within.
Sing a song of living waters,
Pulsing through the veins of
Earth.

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