

St Columba & the Northern Saints
CLIMATE SUNDAY WORSHIP
7th November 2021

PRE WORSHIP 935 *My Jesus, my Saviour*

My Jesus, my Saviour,
Lord, there is none like You.
All of my days I want to praise
The wonders of Your mighty love.
My comfort, my shelter,
Tower of refuge and strength,
Let every breath, all that I am,
Never cease to worship You.

*Shout to the Lord all the earth, let us sing
Power and majesty, praise to the King.
Mountains bow down
And the seas will roar
At the sound of Your name.
I sing for joy at the work of Your hands.
Forever I'll love You, forever I'll stand.
Nothing compares to the
Promise I have in You.*

CALL TO WORSHIP

One young person stands at the front of the congregation holding a sign saying 'silenced' in front of their mouth. Two other young people read:

Reader one: In the Book of Romans, Paul talks about the whole of creation groaning.

Reader two: ¹⁸ I consider that our present sufferings are not worth comparing with the glory that will be revealed in us. ¹⁹ For the creation waits in eager expectation for the children of God to be revealed. ²⁰ For the creation was subjected to frustration, not by its own choice, but by the will of the one who subjected it, in hope ²¹ that the creation itself will be liberated from its bondage to decay and brought into the freedom and glory of the children of God. ²² We know that the whole creation has been groaning as in the pains of childbirth right up to the present time. ²³ Not only so, but we ourselves, who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly as we wait eagerly for our adoption to sonship, the redemption of our bodies. ²⁴ For in this hope we were saved. But hope that is seen is no hope at all. Who hopes for what they already have? ²⁵ But if we hope for what we do not yet have, we wait for it patiently. (Romans 8:18-25)

Reader one: While Saint Paul wasn't talking about the climate crisis in this passage, his words remind us that we have a relationship with creation. We, too, can hear this groaning of creation today.

The young person (Reader 3) removes their 'silenced' sign and then reads out:

We need to listen to the groaning of God's creation – to the extinction of species, to the fury of increasing storms and typhoons, to the deepening droughts and rising floods.
And we need to listen to the science of climate change.

Reader two: We need to add our voices to those who are suffering the most, but have done the least to cause the problem. We need to call out for climate justice.
Reader one: Today we are going to encourage and support us as we seek to respond to the groaning of creation.
Together we can make a difference, no matter what age we are.

SONG 1694 All creation is a song

All creation is a song
waiting to be sung.
All of nature like a prayer
waiting for a tongue.
For who will give it voice
and make it's anthem ring,
or rise to lead a choir
of all created things?
Lord, hear Your people sing:

*Blessing, honour, glory, power
to creation's King!
Songs of earth and songs of Heaven
join as one to bring
Blessing, honour, glory, power
to creation's King!*

All the nations are a song
waiting to be sung.
Every instrument and voice
created for the One.
The Maker of all things.
The Majesty above,
who brought us back from death
with such a costly love.
What praise could be enough?

PSALM 104

Bless the LORD, O my soul.
O LORD my God, you are very great.
**You are clothed with honour and majesty,
wrapped in light as with a garment.**

You make springs gush forth in the valleys;
they flow between the hills,
giving drink to every wild animal;
the wild asses quench their thirst.
**By the streams the birds of the air have their habitation;
they sing among the branches.**

You cause the grass to grow for the cattle,
and plants for people to use,
to bring forth food from the earth,
and wine to gladden the human heart,
oil to make the face shine,
and bread to strengthen the human heart.

**The trees of the LORD are watered abundantly,
the cedars of Lebanon that he planted.
In them the birds build their nests;
the stork has its home in the fir trees.**

The high mountains are for the wild goats;
the rocks are a refuge for the coneys.
O LORD, how manifold are your works!
**In wisdom you have made them all;
the earth is full of your creatures.
When you send forth your spirit, they are created;
and you renew the face of the earth.**

May the glory of the LORD endure for ever;
may the LORD rejoice in his works
who looks on the earth and it trembles,
who touches the mountains and they smoke.
I will sing to the LORD as long as I live;
I will sing praise to my God while I have being.

May my meditation be pleasing to him,
for I rejoice in the LORD.
Let sinners be consumed from the earth,
and let the wicked be no more.
Bless the LORD, O my soul.
Praise the LORD.

VIDEO: "Here the song of our lament" Resound Worship
this can be watched on youtube at: <https://youtu.be/gRgt62AoZnQ>

CONFESSION

Reader one: Sustaining God
today, the stones are shouting
for the Lord's disciples have been silent.

Reader two: Today the cycles of the seasons
which tell of your faithfulness
are gagged and stifled.

Reader three: Today the very skies which tell of your glory
the glaciers which reflect and protect
and the seas which you put in their place
are all in wounded turmoil
longing simply to praise you.

Reader one: Yet we have locked these voices out
and with them the human voices
of those who are hurt first and worst
by emergencies, not just of climate
but the injustice
on which our human societies
have come to rely.

Reader two: For what the rich do to the poor
Our species does to the Earth as a whole.

Reader three: We acknowledge our part,
and our knowing silence
in these and more
sinful choices of today.

Reader one: Food waste

Reader two: Biodiversity loss

Reader three: Plastic pollution

Reader one: Deforestation

Reader two: Air pollution

Reader three: Mismanaged agriculture and factory farming

Reader one: Global warming from fossil fuels

Reader two: Melting ice caps

Reader three: Food and water insecurity.

Reader one: Sustaining God,
as in Christ,
you enter with mercy, energy and compassion
into the life of the Earth,
speaking out wherever creatures are out of place or lost,
shout with the stones,
call us to account
show us the power we have
and how we continue to misuse it.

Reader two: Set us free from imagined responsibilities
to keep things as they have been
And show us, with the energy of forgiveness
the path of healing
for heaven and earth.

Reader three: May our praise join the chorus
of all that has breath
with a loud shout of challenge
for we are your people.

Reader one: Your people forgiven,

Reader two: your people committed to the healing of the Earth

Reader three: by God's grace alone

Everyone: **Amen.**

SONG JP78 He's got the whole world in His hands

He's got the whole world in his hands,
He's got the whole wide world in his hands,
He's got the whole world in his hands,
He's got the whole world in his hands.

He's got ev'rybody here, in his hands,
He's got ev'rybody here, in his hands,
He's got ev'rybody here, in his hands,
He's got the whole world in his hands.

He's got the tiny little baby, in his hands,
He's got the tiny little baby, in his hands,
He's got the tiny little baby, in his hands,
He's got the whole world in his hands.

He's got you and me brother, in his hands,
He's got you and me sister, in his hands,
He's got you and me children, in his hands,
He's got the whole world in his hands.

He's got the whole world in his hands,
He's got the whole wide world in his hands,
He's got the whole world in his hands,
He's got the whole world in his hands.

MOVED BY FAITH VIDEO

this can be watched at: <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1CsoDaJXstRvqZUDvw4ONbM-oFVUGUX25/view?usp=sharing>

TALK

Onesmus, 15, loves school. He hopes to be a teacher when he grows up. Every day after school, he walks for half an hour to collect water from the nearby earth dam for his family.

He says 'Before the earth dam, we had to walk to a river far away. It took three hours to walk there. I didn't have enough time to do my homework. Now I am happier we have the earth dam.'

Now, Onesmus can spend more time learning at school because he doesn't have to walk so far to collect water. He also uses water from the dam to grow tasty fruit at home, like avocados and pineapples.

Onesmus takes great care to water his plants.

Sadly, because of climate change, many plants in Kenya don't get enough rain water and can't grow.

Onesmus explains: 'It hasn't rained properly for a long time. When it rains, I will feel happy.' Thanks to Christian Aid, all children in Onesmus' village are planting trees.

Onesmus is teaching his little nephew, Michael Junior, how to plant a tree sapling, and water it every day, so it can grow tall, strong and green.

Imagine how the trees will grow, and help turn their village into a green, fertile, and happy place to live.

Onesmus' teacher, Miss Priscilla Martin, is happy to see him watering his plants and doing well at school. 'The dam has made a big change,' she says.

'The children are able to concentrate, because they have water. Water is life.'

During the singing of our next song people will be invited to come forward and plant some seeds in the tray of compost.

This is symbolic of our concern for children, like Onesmus and Michael Junior, but also of how we can help, growing our own food, or buying local, cuts waste and carbon; St Columba's will also, like Michael Junior, plant a tree next year, to celebrate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee but also as a way of collecting carbon.

SONG 14 All things bright and beautiful

*All things bright and beautiful,
All creatures great and small,
All things wise and wonderful,
The Lord God made them all.*

Each little flower that opens,
Each little bird that sings,
He made their glowing colours,
He made their tiny wings.

The purple-headed mountain,
The river running by,
The sunset, and the morning
That brightens up the sky.

The cold wind in the winter,
The pleasant summer sun,
The ripe fruits in the garden,
He made them every one.

He gave us eyes to see them,
And lips that we might tell
How great is God Almighty,
Who has made all things well.

PRAYER JOURNEY

1. The garden (Genesis 1-2)

Genesis tells us that we are made in God's image, reflecting his nature (1:26 *The Message*) so that we can be responsible for the very good world he has created.

Pray for guidance on how you can best serve and preserve creation.

2. Sabbath (Leviticus 25:1-7)

Amongst the many laws of the Old Testament is the importance of sabbath – for the land as well as for God's people. The principle highlighted the importance of not overworking the land, but also to let it lie fallow. Pray for wisdom to ensure that you are not causing the land to be over-exploited through your actions and lifestyle.

3. In praise of the Creator (Psalms)

The Psalms are full of praise for the Creator and his creation. Praise God for his creation through what you can see around you today.

Ask God to reveal more of himself to you through his world.

4. Incarnation (John 1)

In John 1 we read of Christ – who has been present since the beginning of creation – becoming flesh and blood and putting down roots in the world he created.

Consider how you can follow this example of incarnation and show commitment to the place you find yourself in at this season of your life.

5. Creation groaning (Romans 8:18-25)

Paul tells us in Romans 8 that creation is groaning. Pray that you will become more attuned to the ways that creation is groaning.

Pray for God to give you guidance about how you can respond to this groaning so that his glory will be revealed in and through you.

6. A renewed Earth (Revelation 21)

The story we have been exploring is not yet over. We are still living it. In Revelation we see that God's redemption story ends with a new Heaven and a new (or renewed) Earth. Thank God for his plan to make everything new (v5). Pray that as Christians we will help bring about this renewal through our words and actions.

SONG JP169 My God is so big

*My God is so big, so strong and so mighty,
There's nothing that He cannot do.
My God is so big, so strong and so mighty,
There's nothing that He cannot do.*

The rivers are his, the mountains are His
The stars are His handiwork too.
My God is so big, so strong and so mighty,
There's nothing that He cannot do.

ACT OF COMMITMENT

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 we be faithful in voicing creation's praise.**

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

Amen.

Amen.

Amen

SONG 425 O Lord my God (How great Thou art)

O Lord my God! When I in awesome wonder
Consider all the works Thy hand hath made,
I see the stars, I hear the mighty thunder,
Thy power throughout the universe displayed:

*Then sings my soul, my Saviour God to Thee,
How great Thou art! How great Thou art!
Then sings my soul, my Saviour God, to Thee,
How great Thou art! How great Thou art!*

When through the woods and forest glades I wander
And hear the birds sing sweetly in the trees;
When I look down from lofty mountain grandeur,
And hear the brook, and feel the gentle breeze;

And when I think that 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:

When Christ shall come with shout of acclamation
And take me home - what joy shall fill my heart!
Then shall I bow in humble adoration
And there proclaim, my God, how great Thou art!

DISMISSAL

Reader one: We shall plant trees

ALL **And they shall take care of us**

Reader two: We shall plough furrows

ALL **And not look back**

Reader three: We'll do our part

ALL **That the world may change course**

1,2,3: And so:

ALL **May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ,
the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit
be with us all, evermore. Amen**