

Green Communion Service

Welcome to St Paul's.

In the book of Genesis we are told that God created the world and 'saw that it was good'. Rich, diverse and fragile, the creation reflected something of God's glory.

We are then told that humanity was created in God's image, as stewards of God's creation. Reflecting in a particular way God's creativity, wisdom and compassion, we are called to care for God's creation.

We come together today to celebrate our beautiful natural world, to lament deeply for the loss of so many of God's creatures and to pray over our care of the world. We especially pray for those most vulnerable among us who are suffering most deeply as the web of life begins to unravel. We commit ourselves anew to joining in God's mission for his creation.

If you are new or visiting we hope you feel at home here.



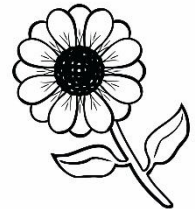
A warm welcome to all

Hymn *Stand to sing*

Greeting In the name of the Father,
and of the Son,
and of the Holy Spirit.
Amen

God in Christ has revealed his glory.
Come let us worship.
From the rising of the sun to its setting.
The Lord's name is greatly to be praised.
Give him praise, you servants of the Lord.
O praise the name of the Lord!

**Climate
change
prayer** **Holy God, earth and air and water are your creation,
and every living thing belongs to you:
Have mercy on us as climate change confronts us.
Give us the will and the courage to simplify the way
we live,
to reduce the energy we use,
to share the resources you provide,
and to bear the cost of change
in Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen**



Collect **Creator God, you made the goodness of
the land, the riches of the sea and the
rhythm of the seasons; as we thank you
for your gracious providing
may we cherish and respect this planet and its
peoples,
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen**

Sit

Storytime *Children come and sit by the dais steps
After the story they go to their groups*

**Prayers of
penitence**

Stand to sing

**If the fields are parched
and the trees are felled
will the rocks cry aloud on their own?
If the birds are starved
and the beasts are killed
will the bones in the dust lift a song?**

*Have mercy, Lord,
have mercy, Lord.
Forgive our broken ways.
Have mercy, Lord,
have mercy, Lord.
Renew the world you made.*

**As the oceans rise
and the wells run dry
do we care if disaster is near?
If our children starve
will they cry to God?
Will they curse us for closing our ears?**

**Still a day will come
when the Lord returns
and the earth will be perfect again.
No more greed or war,
no more tooth and claw,
for the wolf and the lamb will be friends.**

Almighty God, who in Jesus Christ
has given us a kingdom that cannot be destroyed:
forgive you your sins,
open your eyes to God's truth,
strengthen you to do God's will
and give you the joy of his kingdom
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

- First Bible reading** *A reading from the Old Testament / epistle*
For God's holy word,
thanks be to God.
- Hymn** *Stand to sing*
Remain standing for the gospel reading
- Gospel reading** Hear the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ,
according to ...
Glory to you, O Lord.
After the reading
This is the gospel of the Lord.
Praise to you, O Christ.
Sit
- Sermon** *After the sermon there are two minutes' silence
for reflection*
- Prayers of intercession** Let us pray for the Church and for the world,
and let us thank God for his goodness.
Lord, in your mercy.
Hear our prayer.
Merciful Father,
**accept these prayers
for the sake of your Son,
our Saviour Jesus Christ.
Amen**
Stand
- The Creed** Do you believe and trust in God the Father,
who made the world?
We believe and trust in him.
Do you believe and trust in his Son, Jesus Christ,
who died and lives?
We believe and trust in him.

Do you believe and trust in his Holy Spirit,
who gives life to the people of God?

We believe and trust in him.

This is the faith of the Church.

**This is our faith: we believe and trust in one God,
Father, Son and Holy Spirit.**

Amen

The Peace

You shall go out in joy, and be led back in peace;
the mountains and the hills before you shall burst into
song,
and all the trees of the field shall clap their hands.

The peace of the Lord be always with you
and also with you.

Let us offer one another a sign of peace.

*We share the peace with our neighbours, greeting
them.*

Hymn

The offertory is presented during this hymn

Sit

Eucharistic prayer

The Lord is here.
His Spirit is with us.

Lift up your hearts.
We lift them to the Lord.



Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give thanks and praise.

Hearts and minds and souls and voices we lift in
thanks and praise to you, Lord of heaven and earth.

You made the earth as a playground for us to enjoy
your glory and yet we consistently turn your
abundance into our scarcity, your elegance into our
meanness and your simplicity into our corruption.

In Noah you drew all the goodness of your creation into one ark and in Moses you placed the law of love into the ark of your covenant. In Christ you turned the wood of manger and cross into the ark of your salvation.

And so we rejoice to thank you, singing, with all the company of heaven, the hymn of unending praise.



Tune 952 in hymnbook

**Holy, holy, holy Lord.
God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.
Blessèd is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.**

God our rock, to trust you is to build a house on solid ground that will never shift through wind and rain.

You make and renew your church through your Word of life.

Send your Holy Spirit upon your people, that all who eat and drink in your name may behold you face to face and taste and see that you are good.

By that same Spirit, come down upon these gifts of bread and wine that they may be for us the body and blood of your Son Jesus Christ our Lord.

Who, at supper with his disciples, took bread, gave you thanks, broke the bread, and gave it to them, saying,

'Take, eat: this is my body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me.'

After supper he took the cup, again he gave you thanks, and gave it to his disciples, saying,

'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.'

Great is the mystery of faith.

Christ has died

Christ is risen

Christ will come again.

Renewing God, after half a year of flood you brought the ark home to solid ground and gave your creation new birth.

Heal your stricken world today, that the groaning of the soil, the skies and the seas may foretell the greater glory you have prepared for your time of eternal covenant grace.

As you justify your children by faith, uphold all who face injustice and neglect and cruelty.

Hasten that day when your new heaven and new earth will engulf the distress and disappointment and destruction of your people, and you will be all in all, everlasting God,

Father, Son and Holy Spirit. **Amen**

**The Lord's
Prayer**

As our Saviour taught us, so we 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.
Lead us not into temptation
but deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power
and the glory are yours,
now and for ever.
Amen**



**Breaking of
the Bread**

We break this bread to share in the body of Christ.
**Though we are many, we are one body,
because we all share in one bread.**

Agnus Dei

Tune 952 in hymnbook

**Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world:
have mercy on us.
Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world:
have mercy on us.
Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world:
grant us peace.**

**Giving of
Communion**

Draw near with faith.
Receive the body of our Lord Jesus Christ
which he gave for you,
and his blood which he shed for you.
Eat and drink in remembrance that
he died for you,
and feed on him in your hearts
by faith with thanksgiving.



All are welcome to receive Communion or a blessing

During Communion bird song will be played

**Prayer after
Communion** Lord of all creation,
as we have received the bread and wine,
fruits of the earth and tokens of salvation,
so with joy we celebrate your
goodness
and commit ourselves to serve you
on your earth,
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen



Hymn *Remain seated for notices, then stand
to sing*

**Blessing
and
Dismissal** 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 reflect God's glory in creation;
and the blessing of God almighty,
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,
be among you and remain with you always.
Amen

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.
In the name of Christ. Amen



*Refreshments are served at the back of church.
If you are a newcomer or visitor, please come and
say hello to one of the welcome team or clergy.*



*Common Worship: Services and Prayers for the Church of England
copyright © The Archbishops' Council 2000 and Common Worship:
Times and Seasons copyright © The Archbishops' Council 2006,
both published by Church House Publishing.*

*Eucharistic prayer: Samuel Wells and Abigail Kocher, Joining the Angels' Song: Eucharistic Prayers for
Sundays and Holy Days, Years A, B and C (Norwich: Canterbury Press, 2016), pp. 302-303.*

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St Matthew with St Paul

Pilgrims on a journey