

***Swindon Churches – Green Festival  
6<sup>th</sup> -14<sup>th</sup> June 2026  
Rooted in Faith – Growing a Greener Future***



***Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> June 2026 – Christ Church***

***A Service of Creation Praise***

***Led by Area Dean Revd Sally Robertson***

*“May the struggles and our concern for this planet  
never take away the joy of our hope”  
Pope Francis*

**Welcome** - *Helena Thomas, Swindon Eco Deanery Group*

*The leader says:*

The Lord be with you

*All*      **And also with you**

In the name of God, Creator, Sustainer and Redeemer

*All*      **Amen**

### **A Prayer of Praise**

We imagine the comfortable warmth of a summer's day...  
God, warm and loving, bringer of light, source of life, we praise you  
for the sunshine.

We imagine a gentle shower of rain, enjoying the cooling and  
refreshing drops.  
God, you pour out the water of life and through Jesus offer it to all  
who come to drink. You wash us clean and refresh our lives. We  
thank and praise you.

We imagine the whisper of a breeze, softly blowing across our  
faces.  
God, you breathed the breath of life into creation. At Pentecost the  
wind of your Spirit energised the disciples. Breathe your Spirit once  
more into our lives we pray, to equip and energise us for your work.  
We thank and praise you.

*All*      **Amen**

**Gathering Hymn:** 'Great is Thy Faithfulness'

**Bible Reading** - *Read by Anne Grainger*

Psalm 8 - '*O Lord, our Lord, your greatness is seen in all the world*'

### **Prayer of Confession**

*You are invited to crush the fragrant twig of rosemary in your hand  
as we confess our sins*

As we hold our fragrant symbol of rosemary, we remember and confess that we have become alienated from the Earth and viewed this planet as disposable, a source of endless resources, and a means to satisfy our wants and desires.

*All*     **We have polluted Earth's waters and destroyed forests**  
**We have turned our greed into global warming**  
**We have been careless with the resources you have given us**  
**We have loved progress more than the planet**  
**We are sorry and ask for forgiveness**

*We pause to reflect in silence for a moment*

Christ hears our confession and forgives our sins against Earth.

*All*     **Christ, teach us to love Earth as our home and**  
**the planet as a precious sanctuary**

**Hymn:** 'Beauty for Brokenness'

**Bible Reading** – *Read by Daniel Pitt*

Romans 8: 18-25 - *'Creation waits with eager longing'*

**SERMON** – Ven Dr Adrian Youings

**PRAYER OF COMMITMENT**

We join with the earth and with each other.

*All*     **To bring new life to the land**  
**To restore the waters**  
**To refresh the air**

We join with the earth and with each other.

*All*     **To renew the forests**  
**To care for the plants**  
**To protect the creatures**

We join with the earth and with each other.

*All*     **To celebrate the seasons**

**To rejoice in the sunlight  
To sing the song of the stars**

*All* We join with the earth and with each other.  
**To recreate the human community  
To promote justice and peace  
To remember our children**

*All* We join with the earth and with each other.  
**We join together as many and diverse expressions  
of one loving mystery: for the healing of the  
earth and the renewal of all life.  
Amen**

**Hymn: 'Morning Has Broken'**

**Prayers of Intercession** – *led by Helen Allen*

**The Lord's Prayer**

*Rejoicing in God's new creation, we say together ...*

*All* **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.**

**Hymn: 'How Great Thou Art'**

## **BLESSING**

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.

*All*      **Amen**

## **DISMISSAL**

Tend the earth, care for God's good creation, and bring forth the  
fruits of righteousness. Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

*All*      **In the name of Christ. Amen**



*Wherever I turn my eyes, around on Earth or to the heavens  
I see You in the field of stars  
I see You in the yield of the land  
In every breath and sound, a blade of grass, a simple flower,  
An echo of Your holy Name.  
- Rabbi Abraham ibn Ezra (1092-1167)*