

Creation Songs of Praise

St Andrew North Swindon 16th June 2024

Welcome and Introduction

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!

MORNING HAS BROKEN

like the first morning,

blackbird has spoken

like the first bird.

Praise for the singing!

Praise for the morning!

Praise for them, springing

fresh from the Word!

Sweet the rain's new fall

sunlit from heaven,

like the first dewfall

on the first grass.

Praise for the sweetness

of the wet garden,

sprung in completeness

where God's feet pass.

Mine is the sunlight!

Mine is the morning

born of the one light

Eden saw play!

Praise with elation,

praise every morning,

God's recreation

of the new day!

Author: Eleanor Farjeon (1931)

Opening Prayers

We praise you, living God:
you give strength to the earth that sustains us,
you open your hand to feed all living things.

We praise you, Lord Jesus Christ:

you teach us with stories of seeds and weeds and harvest time,
you call us to accept your word and bear much fruit.

We praise you, Holy Spirit, fire of love:

you are the breath of life in every creature,
you refresh our thirsty souls with grace.

**Blessed be God, Source of Wisdom, living Word, abiding Spirit,
Blessed be God for ever.**

We confess our sin, and the sins of our society, in the misuse of God's
creation.

God our Father, we are sorry
for the times when we have used your gifts carelessly,
and acted ungratefully.

Hear our prayer, and in your mercy:

forgive us and help us.

We enjoy the fruits of the harvest,
but sometimes forget that you have given them to us.

Father, in your mercy:

forgive us and help us.

We belong to a people who are full and satisfied,
but ignore the cry of the hungry.

Father, in your mercy:

forgive us and help us.

We are thoughtless,
and do not care enough for the world you have made.

Father, in your mercy:

forgive us and help us.

We store up goods for ourselves alone,
as if there were no God and no heaven.

Father, in your mercy:

forgive us and help us.

The Lord enrich you with his grace,
and nourish you with his blessing;
the Lord defend you in trouble and keep you from all evil;

the Lord accept your prayers,
and absolve you from your offences,
for the sake of Jesus Christ, our Saviour.
Amen.

**GLAD THAT I LIVE AM I;
That the sky is blue;
Glad for the country lanes
And the fall of dew.
After the sun the rain,
After the rain the sun;
This is the way of life,
Til the work be done.
All that we need to do,
Be we low or high,
Is to see that we grow,
Nearer the sky**

Author: Lizette W. Reese

Liturgy of the Word

Bible readings

Old Testament: Ezekiel chapter 17 verses 22-end

New Testament: Mark chapter 4 verses 26-34

After each

This is the word of the Lord

Thanks be to God

ALL CREATURES OF OUR GOD AND KING,

Lift up your voice and with us sing:

Alleluia, alleluia!

Thou burning sun with golden beam,

Thou silver moon with softer gleam:

O praise Him, O praise Him,

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

**Thou rushing wind that art so strong,
Ye clouds that sail in heaven along,
O praise Him, alleluia!
Thou rising morn, in praise rejoice,
Ye lights of evening, find a voice:
*O praise Him, O praise Him,
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!***

**Thou flowing water, pure and clear,
Make music for thy Lord to hear,
Alleluia, alleluia!
Thou fire so masterful and bright,
That givest man both warmth and light:**

**Let all things their Creator bless,
And worship Him in humbleness,
O praise Him, alleluia!
Praise, praise the Father, praise the Son,
And praise the Spirit, Three-in-One:**

Author: St. Francis of Assisi (1225); Paraphraser: William H. Draper

Sermon

**JESUS IS LORD! Creation's voice proclaims it,
For by His power each tree and flower
Was planned and made.
Jesus is Lord! The universe declares it,
Sun, moon and stars in heaven
Cry, 'Jesus is Lord!'**

***Jesus is Lord! Jesus is Lord!
Praise Him with hallelujahs
For Jesus is Lord!***

**Jesus is Lord! Yet from His throne eternal
In flesh He came to die in pain
On Calvary's tree.
Jesus is Lord! From Him all life proceeding,
Yet gave His life a ransom
Thus setting us free.**

**Jesus is Lord! O'er sin the mighty conqueror,
From death He rose, and all His foes
Shall own His name.**

**Jesus is Lord! God sent His Holy Spirit
To show by works of power
That Jesus is Lord.**

Author: David Mansell

Affirmation of faith

Let us declare our faith in God.

**All We believe in God the Father,
from whom every family
in heaven and on earth is named.**

**We believe in God the Son,
who lives in our hearts through faith,
and fills us with his love.**

**We believe in God the Holy Spirit,
who strengthens us
with power from on high.**

**We believe in one God;
Father, Son and Holy Spirit.
Amen.**

Prayers of Intercession

Beginning with Collect concerning Climate Change

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.

Forgive our past mistakes
and send us your Spirit,
with wisdom in present controversies
and vision for the future to which you call us
in Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

God in creation

Let us pray for our own needs and for the needs of others,
following the pattern which Jesus gave
when he taught us to pray to God our Father.

Through our love of our city,
through our care for the welfare of its people ,
through our care for its buildings, open spaces and roads which link us,
through our respect for the melting pot of cultures, races and languages
that make your city sing:

Father, hallowed be your name.

In our work places and in our homes,
in our centres of commerce and learning,
of industry and services, law courts, sports grounds and art centres,
and where policy is planned:

Father, your kingdom come.

By our seeking your guidance,
by our keeping your commandments,
by reducing our consumption of energy and resources,
by our living true to our consciences:

Father, your will be done.

For the millions who live in poverty and hunger,
for our own needs, and the requirements of our neighbours,
by cooperation, sympathy and generosity:

give us today our daily bread.

Because we have broken your commandments,
doing what we ought not to do and neglecting
what we ought to do:

forgive us our sins.

If any have injured us by injustice, double dealing or exploitation:
we forgive those who sin against us.

When prosperity lulls us to false security,
or hard times prompt us to despair,
When success makes us boastful,

or failure makes us bitter:
**lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.**

In the assurance of faith,
in the confidence of hope,
in the will to serve,
in the seeking of safe and sustainable cities,
help us to love Christ as Lord,
and our neighbour as ourselves.

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

Choir Anthem – Gaelic Blessing by John Rutter

Notices and Banns

**NOW THANK WE ALL OUR GOD
with heart and hands and voices,
who wondrous things has done,
in whom his world rejoices;
who from our mothers' arms
has blessed us on our way
with countless gifts of love,
and still is ours today.**

**O may this bounteous God
through all our life be near us,
with ever joyful hearts
and blessed peace to cheer us,
to keep us in his grace,
and guide us when perplexed,
and free us from all ills
of this world in the next.**

**All praise and thanks to God
the Father now be given,
the Son and Spirit blest,**

**who reign in highest heaven
the one eternal God,
whom heaven and earth adore;
for thus it was, is now,
and shall be evermore.**

Author: Martin Rinkart (1636); Translator: Catherine Winkworth (1858)

Prayer over collection

Creator God,
you give seed for us to sow,
and bread for us to eat;
make us thankful for what we have received
and generous in supplying the needs of others
so all the world may give you thanks and glory,
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen

Dismissal

Go in strong and growing faith.
Trust in the tenderness of Christ
to heal a bruised and broken world.

Thanks be to God.

Go in eager and refreshing hope.
Work with Christ risen from the dead,
to fulfil the promise of a new creation.

Thanks be to God.

Go in kind and compassionate love.
Be blessed by Christ, Lord of all creation,
to share his life in the world

Let us go in peace,
to treasure and to tend the world God made and loves.

In the name of Christ. Amen.

Sources:

Patterns for Worship 1995,1998, New Patterns for Worship 2002 : Church House Publishing
Climate Change prayer; Dismissal,, stewardship of creation; Anglican Communion Environmental Network