



Galaxies Evening Service 25 October 2009

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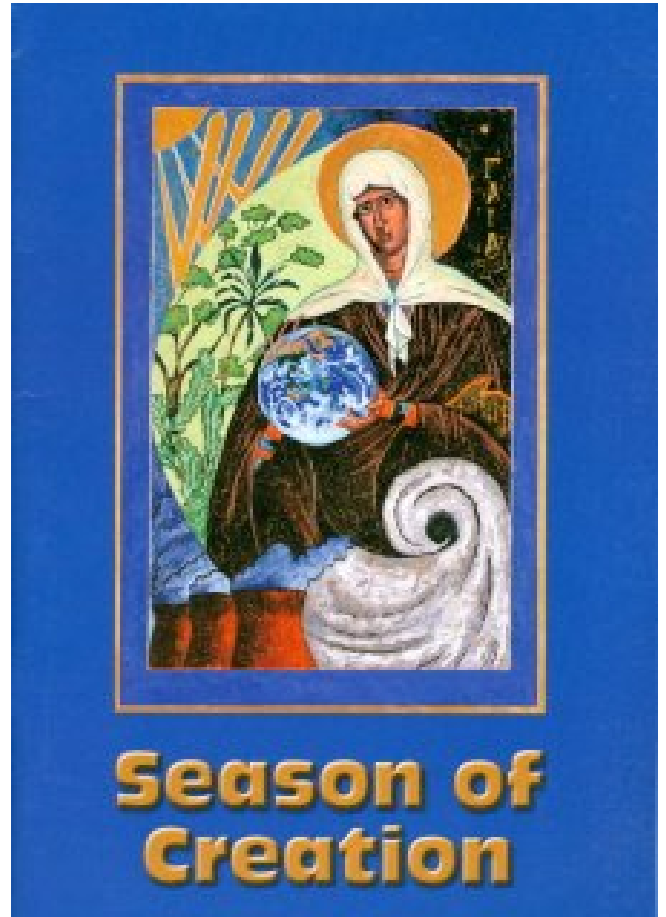


Welcome:

The theme for tonight's service is the "Season of Creation" and if the weather is good we will be go outside for our meal and service.

The Charter for the Season of Creation is:
Celebrate Earth as a sacred planet filled with God's vibrant presence.

- **Unite** with all creation in praising the creator of the universe.
- **Confess** our sins against creation and empathise with a groaning creation.
- **Embrace** our kin in creation as our extended family.
- **Proclaim** the good news that the the cosmic Christ who fills and renews all creation is embodied by the themes of Justice, Love and Mutuality of Jesus of Nazareth.
- **Gather** at the shared table to receive the healing power of Christ that extends to all creation.
- **Go forth** on a mission to be partners with Christ in the healing of creation.



Call to togetherness and sharing:

Leader: God, we are all part of you; your creation, your life, and your loving. We gather together to celebrate and to honour all that has been created

All: May all that God has created be honoured, nurtured and protected.

Passing the Peace:

Leader: Now that we are reminded that we are to honour all creation, let us start by honouring each other by sharing our peace and love with one another.

All: We open our hearts to the mystery of God's love in all creation. We carry in us the divine spark, the gift of love and care, which we share tonight, deepens us as people of God



Each person shares hugs, or whatever you are comfortable with, with those around them.

Notices

If you have any notices to bring to our attention please speak up.

Contemporary reflection - The Season of Creation



What Is the Season of Creation?

In the seasons of Advent, Epiphany, Lent and Easter we celebrate the life of Christ. In the season of Pentecost we celebrate the Spirit of God. Now, in the *Season of Creation*, we have an opportunity to celebrate God, the Creator of everything that exists.

The *Season of Creation* was designed to run for four Sundays in September, prior to St Francis of Assisi Day but because *Galaxies* meets once a month I am bring all these elements into one service, so hang on tight! As we journey through the Ocean, Fauna, Storm and Cosmos!

Why a *Season of Creation*?

There is growing concern in Christian communities about the ecological crisis and the way human beings are treating the Earth. Planet Earth is in peril! All creation is suffering.

An effective way to focus these concerns is through worship. By concentrating our worship on God's creation and our relationship with creation, we can seek ways to heal rather than exploit creation. The *Season of Creation* helps us care for our planet home so that it may continue to care for us.

Ocean - We worship with the surging seas



"Let the sea roar and all that fills it!" Ps. 96.11

Invocation

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 depths with amazing designs. Amen
Holy! Holy! Holy! The oceans are filled with God's presence.

Invitation

We invite the oceans to worship with us.
The deep sea currents and coral reefs, the mountain peaks on the ocean floor.
We call the swirling seas to celebrate with us.
The icebergs that break off from the South Pole, the calm waters that caress the equator.
We join all ocean life in songs of praise,
Whales and dolphins dancing on the surface, and choirs of angel fish assembled below.
We summon the seashore to magnify the Lord,
The pelican, the stingray, the silver gull, the white caps and waves that splash in praise.
Oceans, seas and watery depths, Celebrate with all that lives within you, and roar in praise with us today.
Roar, ocean, roar! - Roar, roar in praise.

Remembering

As we taste the sea salt 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.

Confession

We remember and confess that we have killed reefs, polluted seas and turned surrounding oceans into domains to be conquered.

We are sorry. We have polluted Earth's waters with toxins, and killed millions of species in the ocean. We have turned our greed into global warming. We have helped cause Arctic and Antarctic regions to melt. We have loved progress more than the planet.

We are sorry. We are sorry.

Absolution

Christ hears your confession and forgives your sins against the seas. Christ, teach us to love the seas as a precious part of our planet home. I speak for Christ: I invite you to celebrate Earth as your home and preserve the waters of life in God's sanctuary.

Shalom! Shalom! Earth is our home!

Fauna -We worship with the whole fauna family



"Wild animals and all cattle, creeping things and flying birds! Praise the Lord!" Ps. 148.10

Invocation

In the name of the Creator of all fauna, the name of Christ, the lamb of God, and the name of the Spirit, the breath in all life. Amen.

Holy! Holy! Holy! Creation is 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.

Invitation

We invite our fauna family to worship with us,

All our kin living on this planet, from the busiest bee to the tallest giraffe.

We remember our ancient relatives who became extinct,

Dinosaurs, dodos and moas, giant marsupials and the woolly mammoths.

We join our brothers and sisters in praising God,

Gliding eagles and watchful meerkats, Gorillas in the mist and polar bears in the snow.

We summon the kin we have come to love,
The stray cat and the backyard dog, the kiwi, the pony, and the little lamb.
All our fauna family in the wild,
Raise your voices to the skies in a family festival of praise.
Sing, family, sing!
A fauna song of praise!

Remembering

Remember birds and animals you have loved or with whom you felt a spiritual kinship. Share your memories with the person next to you.

Remember too those of our kin who are endangered, those who have had their homes destroyed and those who have become extinct, through human greed and exploitation.

We hear creation groaning. We hear fellow creatures crying out in pain. And we hear members of our fauna family weeping.

Confession

As you remember, you are invited to come forward and take a shell to remember an extinct species in our fauna family. You may name the family member as you take the shell and remember one of our lost ones

We share the sorrow of our fauna family. We feel the loss. We share the sorrow.

We share the memory. And we are sorry for our sins against members of our fauna family.

Absolution

Christ, who was deeply grieved in Gethsemane, knows your sorrow and shares the suffering of all creatures.

Christ, teach us compassion for the life that suffers around us.

I speak for Christ:

I affirm your compassion. Come now, embrace creatures in pain, and care for those in danger.

Shalom! Shalom! We embrace the suffering of creation.

Storm - We worship with the winds and the weather



"You make the clouds your chariots, you ride on the wings of the wind and you make the winds your messengers" Ps. 104.3-4

Invocation

In the name of God, present in the thunder of the storm, the name of Christ, present in the stillness after the storm, and the name of the Spirit, present in the winds of the storm. Amen.
Holy! Holy! Holy! Earth is filled with God's presence.

Christ, as we come into this sanctuary today, we enter your presence even in the storm.
Holy! Holy! Holy! Earth is filled with your presence.

Invitation

We invite the elements of the storm to worship with us. The wild winds and the dark clouds, the lightning flash and the thunder roll. We invite the hurricane to join us in wonder:

The fierce gales and blinding rains, the crashing waves and swaying trees.

But with our invitation there are questions.

Where is our God in all of this? Where is our God in the storm?

Where is our God in the cyclone?

Spinning the wind from heaven above or present where the spiral hits the ground

Where is our God in the hurricane?

Sending forth wild winds in anger or present where the rains strike the land

Where is our God in the tsunami?

Forcing a wall of water onto the shore or present with the victims left on the sand

We celebrate God's presence in the storm

And with all who know the effects of the storm.

Remembering

As we rub this sand in our hands we remember times when we experienced extreme weather conditions. We remember fierce storms in our lives, moments when we raised questions about God's role in our world.

We remember asking, 'Why?' - 'Where was our God in all of this?'

Confession

We remember and confess our doubts.

We have doubted God's goodness.

We have doubted God's purpose when hurricanes and flash floods have hit.

We have doubted God's presence in the aftermath of human suffering.

We are sorry. We are sorry. We are sorry. - We have doubted. We are sorry.

Absolution

Christ hears your confession, forgives your sins and answers your doubts.

Christ, assure us of your purpose, your goodness and your love.

I speak for Christ:

your God is not high in heaven playing wild games with nature. Your God is deep within each storm feeling its power and awe. Your God is the suffering God, revealed as such at Calvary, and suffering with all who suffer in the aftermath of storms.

Shalom! Shalom! God too suffers in our storms.

Cosmos Sunday - We worship with the entire universe



"Praise him you highest skies" Ps.148.1

Invocation

In the name of the Creator of the cosmos, In the name of Christ who fills the cosmos,
In the name of the Spirit who animates the cosmos. Amen.

Holy! Holy! Holy! The Cosmos is filled with God's presence

Invitation

We invite the cosmos to worship with us.

We invite glittering galaxies high in the sky to radiate the splendour of God's presence.

We call distant domains of space to celebrate with us.

We invite nebula, nova and black holes to thank God for their fascinating formation.

We summon that piece of stardust called Earth,

To pulse with the rhythm of God's presence and celebrate God's glory in this planet garden.

We invite millions of living species to dance with life,

The turtle, the toad and the elephant, the earthworm, the ant and the dragonfly.

We invite every creature in the web of creation

To consciously connect with others in this community called the cosmos.

Dance, creation, dance!

Dance with cosmic energy!

Remembering

As we rub this sand in our hands we remember times when we were acutely conscious that we were intricately connected with a vast world of time and space. We are conscious of our place in the cosmos.

We remember moments of wonder, sensing the infinite world of space, connecting with endless networks in time and feeling the mystery of the moment.

We remember and rejoice.

Thank you, God, for making us aware of our special place in your web of creation.

Confession

We remember and confess that we have striven to discover other worlds, while polluting our own atmosphere and ignoring the needs of others with whom we are closely connected in that part of the web of creation.

We are sorry.

We have polluted Earth's atmosphere and cut a hole in the ozone layer.

We have turned our greed into global warming. We have ignored our crucial connection with those parts of creation where we live. We are sorry.

Absolution

Christ hears your confession and forgives your sins against your part of the cosmic community.

Christ, teach us to love the domains that surround and sustain our planet.

I speak for Christ:

I invite you to come home to Earth by rejoicing under her galaxy.

Shalom! Shalom! We are coming home!

Remembering Judith Dale, founding member of Galaxies

Judith was not just one of the original founding members of Galaxies but also the person who came up with our name: *GalaXies* :- Gay And Lesbian And Christian (X) In Every Sphere. We will miss her interest, wit and challenges to our ways of thinking.

Fergus has some poetry to read in remembrance of our dear friend Judith.

Departure

God, our Creator, as we reflect on the mysteries of the cosmos, we celebrate the wondrous design of the universe and the Wisdom that guides its course. Help us to discern how we are connected with past and present members of the cosmic community. Teach us to sense the presence of the cosmic Christ, whose presence fills and reconciles all forces in creation.

Thank you for all those you have sent to support us and to challenge us that we may grow. May we in turn support and challenge others we meet along the way.

Amen!

