

Holy Communion
at St Paul's, Ashgrove



Season of
Creation 2020

P: Welcome

P: Hymn All Creatures of our God and King (TiS 100)

Note that hymns are only sung in the 9am service

**P: We gather in the image of the Creator
who is a community of love.**

**We gather in the name of the Redeemer
who reconciles all of creation.**

**We gather in the presence of the Life Giver
who inspires new life and renews it.**

**The Lord be with you.
And also with you.**

LA: We acknowledge the traditional owners of the land where we gather today - the Yuggera and Ugarapul people – and pay respects to their Elders, past, present and emerging.

LA: We read in Romans 13:8, “Owe no one anything, except to love one another; for whoever loves another has fulfilled the law.”

**LA: [Let us pray.]
Almighty God,
to whom all hearts are open,
all desires known,
and from whom no secrets are hidden:
cleanse the thoughts of our hearts
by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit,
that we may perfectly love you,
and worthily magnify your holy name,
through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

**Glory to God in the highest,
and peace to God's people on earth.
Lord God, heavenly King,
almighty God and Father,
we worship you, we give you thanks,
we praise you for your glory.
Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father,
Lord God, Lamb of God,
you take away the sin of the world:
have mercy on us;
you are seated at the right hand of the Father:
receive our prayer.
For you alone are the Holy One,
you alone are the Lord,
you alone are the Most High
Jesus Christ,
with the Holy Spirit,
in the glory of God the Father. Amen.**

Season of Creation Prayer

Creator of Life,

At Your word, the Earth brought forth plants yielding seed
and trees bearing every kind of fruit.

The rivers, mountains, minerals, seas and forests sustained life.

Through the cycles of days and seasons, renewal and growth,
you open your hand to give us all our food in the proper time.

In your Wisdom, you granted a Sabbath;

a blessed time to rest in gratitude for all that you have given;

a time to liberate ourselves from over consumption;

a time to allow the land and all creatures to rest
from the burden of production.

But our way of life has pushed our planet beyond its limits.

The forests are receding, the topsoil erodes, the fields fail,
the deserts advance, the seas acidify, the storms and bushfires intensify.

We have not allowed the land to observe a Sabbath,
and the Earth is struggling to be renewed.

Strengthen us with the faith to trust in your providence.

Inspire us with the creativity to share what we have been given.

Teach us to be satisfied with enough.

Send Your Holy Spirit to renew the face of creation.

In the name of the One who came to proclaim good news to all creation, Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

1st Reading

Exodus 12.1-14

¹ The Lord said to Moses and Aaron in the land of Egypt: ² This month shall mark for you the beginning of months; it shall be the first month of the year for you. ³ Tell the whole congregation of Israel that on the tenth of this month they are to take a lamb for each family, a lamb for each household. ⁴ If a household is too small for a whole lamb, it shall join its closest neighbour in obtaining one; the lamb shall be divided in proportion to the number of people who eat of it. ⁵ Your lamb shall be without blemish, a year-old male; you may take it from the sheep or from the goats. ⁶ You shall keep it until the fourteenth day of this month; then the whole assembled congregation of Israel shall slaughter it at twilight. ⁷ They shall take some of the blood and put it on the two doorposts and the lintel of the houses in which they eat it. ⁸ They shall eat the lamb that same night; they shall eat it roasted over the fire with unleavened bread and bitter herbs. ⁹ Do not eat any of it raw or boiled in water, but roasted over the fire, with its head, legs, and inner organs. ¹⁰ You shall let none of it remain until the morning; anything that remains until the morning you shall burn. ¹¹ This is how you shall eat it: your loins girded, your sandals on your feet, and your staff in your hand; and you shall eat it hurriedly. It is the passover of the Lord. ¹² For I will pass through the land of Egypt that night, and I will strike down every firstborn in the land of Egypt, both human beings and animals; on all the gods of Egypt I will execute judgements: I am the Lord. ¹³ The blood shall be a sign for you on the houses where you live: when I see the blood, I will pass over you, and no plague shall destroy you when I strike the land of Egypt. ¹⁴ This day shall be a day of remembrance for you. You shall celebrate it as a festival to the Lord; throughout your generations you shall observe it as a perpetual ordinance.

For the word of the Lord,

Thanks be to God.

Psalm 95:1-9

O come, let us sing to the LORD;

let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our salvation!

2 Let us come into his presence with thanksgiving;

let us make a joyful noise to him with songs of praise!

3 For the LORD is a great God,

and a great King above all gods.

4 In his hand are the depths of the earth;

the heights of the mountains are his also.

5 The sea is his, for he made it,

and the dry land, which his hands have formed.

6 O come, let us worship and bow down,

let us kneel before the LORD, our Maker!

7 For he is our God,

and we are the people of his pasture,

and the sheep of his hand.

O that today you would listen to his voice!

8 Do not harden your hearts, as at Meribah,

as on the day at Massah in the wilderness,

9 when your ancestors tested me,

and put me to the proof, though they had seen my work.

Romans 13.1-10

1 Let every person be subject to the governing authorities; for there is no authority except from God, and those authorities that exist have been instituted by God. **2** Therefore whoever resists authority resists what God has appointed, and those who resist will incur judgement. **3** For rulers are not a terror to good conduct, but to bad. Do you wish to have no fear of the authority? Then do what is good, and you will receive its approval; **4** for it is God's servant for your good. But if you do what is wrong, you should be afraid, for the authority does not bear the sword in vain! It is the servant of God to execute wrath on the wrongdoer. **5** Therefore one must be subject, not only because of wrath but also because of conscience. **6** For the same reason you also pay taxes, for the authorities are God's servants, busy with this very thing. **7** Pay to all what is due to them—taxes to whom taxes are due, revenue to whom revenue is due, respect to whom respect is due, honour to whom honour is due. **8** Owe no one anything, except to love one another; for the one who loves another has fulfilled the law. **9** The commandments, 'You shall not commit adultery; You shall not murder; You shall not steal; You shall not covet'; and any other commandment, are summed up in this word, 'Love your neighbour as yourself.' **10** Love does no wrong to a neighbour; therefore, love is the fulfilling of the law.

For the word of the Lord,

thanks be to God.

LA: Hymn God, You Touch the Earth with Beauty (TiS 610)

Gospel Reading

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

The Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew chapter 18 beginning at verse 10

Glory to you Lord Jesus Christ.

Matthew 18.10-20

10 'Take care that you do not despise one of these little ones; for, I tell you, in heaven their angels continually see the face of my Father in heaven. 12 What do you think? If a shepherd has a hundred sheep, and one of them has gone astray, does he not leave the ninety-nine on the mountains and go in search of the one that went astray? 13 And if he finds it, truly I tell you, he rejoices over it more than over the ninety-nine that never went astray. 14 So it is not the will of your Father in heaven that one of these little ones should be lost. 15 'If another member of the church sins against you, go and point out the fault when the two of you are alone. If the member listens to you, you have regained that one. 16 But if you are not listened to, take one or two others along with you, so that every word may be confirmed by the evidence of two or three witnesses. 17 If the member refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church; and if the offender refuses to listen even to the church, let such a one be to you as a Gentile and a tax-collector. 18 Truly I tell you, whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven. 19 Again, truly I tell you, if two of you agree on earth about anything you ask, it will be done for you by my Father in heaven. 20 For where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them.'

For the Gospel of the Lord,
praise to you Lord Jesus Christ.

Sermon

Silence

LA: Nicene Creed

Let us together affirm the faith of the Church

**We believe in one God,
the Father, the almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is, seen and unseen.
We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made,
of one being with the Father;
through him all things were made.
For us and for our salvation
he came down from heaven,
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary
and became truly human.
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.
On the third day he rose again
in accordance with the Scriptures;
he ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again in glory to judge
the living and the dead
and his kingdom will have no end.
We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,**

who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son
is worshipped and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.
We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.
We acknowledge one baptism for the
forgiveness of sins.
We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come. Amen.

LA: THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Let us pray for the world and for the Church.

We pray in thanksgiving for the Earth in which all life is rooted, the Sun whose energy radiates life, Water that nurtures and revives us, and the creatures with whom we live, and for whom we are called to till and keep this garden planet.

enlighten our hearts and remain with your world.

All-powerful God, you are present in the whole universe and in the smallest of your creatures. You embrace with your tenderness all that exists. Pour out upon us the power of your love, that we may protect life and beauty. Fill us with peace, that we may live as brothers and sisters, harming no one. Creative Spirit,

enlighten our hearts and remain with your world.

God of the poor, help us to rescue the abandoned and forgotten of this Earth, so precious in your eyes. Bring healing to our lives, that we may protect the world and not prey on it, that we may sow beauty, not pollution and destruction. Touch the hearts of those who look only for gain at the expense of the poor and the Earth. Creative Spirit,

enlighten our hearts and remain with your world.

Teach us to discover the worth of each thing, to be filled with awe and contemplation, to recognize that we are profoundly united with every creature as we journey towards your infinite light.

Creative Spirit,

enlighten our hearts and remain with your world.

In the wake of the COVID-19 global pandemic, hear our cries of compassion, and heal our world and all creatures. Inspire our hearts with a holy imagination, to rise, freed from the demands to produce and consume to imagine a just, sustainable way of living, where all have enough, and all may be restored.

enlighten our hearts and remain with your world.

During this Season of Creation, grant us courage to observe a Sabbath for our planet. Strengthen us with the faith to trust in your providence. Inspire us with the creativity to share what we have been given. Teach us to be satisfied with enough. And as we proclaim a Jubilee for the Earth, send Your Holy Spirit to renew the face of the ground.

enlighten our hearts and remain with your world.

We thank you for being with us each day. Encourage us, we pray, in our struggle for justice, love and peace. Creative Spirit,

enlighten our hearts and remain with your world. Amen.

Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

...

LA: Accept our prayers through Jesus Christ our Lord, who taught us to 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.
Save us from the time of trial
and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours
now and for ever. Amen.**

Confession *(based on Leviticus 25:1-25)*

We praise you God, for the Earth that sustains life. Through the planetary cycles of days and seasons, renewal and growth, you open your hand to give all creatures our food in the proper time. In your Wisdom you gave a Sabbath for the land to rest. But these days our living pushes the planet beyond its limits. Our demand for growth, and an endless cycle of production and consumption are exhausting our world. The forests are leached, the topsoil erodes, the fields fail, the deserts advance, the seas acidify, the storms intensify. Humans and animals are forced to flee in search of security. We have not allowed the land to observe a Sabbath, and the Earth is struggling to renew. And so we confess. God of mercy and justice,

You tell us the land must rest, free from the burden of production.

We confess our demand that the Earth produce beyond its limits, and our bondage to desire more.

You call us to pause from sowing, pruning, and reaping in ways that destroy the soil.

We confess our over consumption of food and energy.

You assure us that we can be filled from the yield of the land.

We confess our lack of trust that we can thrive within the Earth's limits.

You affirm that our security is found in sufficiency.

We confess our lack of courage to resist the drive for endless growth.

You call us to leave enough fruit on the vine and in the fields to feed our the poor and the outsider.

We confess our failure to share what we receive from the Earth.

You call us to fairness and justice.

We confess that we have not loved you with our whole heart and strength and mind, or our neighbours as ourselves or your creation as the work of your hands.

Turn us from fear and mistrust,

and free us to imagine a life reconciled to the Earth and all creatures, through the Good News of Jesus Christ, in whose name we pray.

P: Almighty God,
who has promised forgiveness
to all who turn to God in faith:
pardon you and set you free from all your sins,
strengthen you in all goodness
and keep you in eternal life,
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

P: We are the body of Christ.
His Spirit is with us.

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

All may exchange a sign of peace, maintaining 1.5m separation and without touching.

P: Hymn God is Love (TiS 153)

Note that we cannot pass collection bowls around at this time. There is a box at the back of the building to receive your offerings. Alternatively, please consider giving electronically through your bank. St Paul's bank details are BSB: 704901 Acc NO: 00004420

P: The Lord be with you.
And also with you.
Lift up your hearts.
We lift them to the Lord.
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Loving God,
we thank you for this world of wonder and delight.
You have given it to us to care for,
so that all your creatures may enjoy its bounty.
Lord our God,
we give you thanks and praise.
We thank you that when we turned away from you,
you sent Jesus to live and work as one of us,
and bring us back to you.
He showed us how to love you
and set us free to love and serve one another.
Lord our God,
we give you thanks and praise.
We thank you that on the cross
Jesus took away our sin,
all that keeps us from each other and from you.
He frees us from hate and fear,
from all that destroys love and trust.
Lord our God,
we give you thanks and praise.

And so with everyone who believes in you,
with all the saints and angels,
we rejoice and praise you, saying:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.**

And now we thank you
for these gifts of bread and wine;
may we who receive them,
as Jesus said,
share his body and his blood.
On the night he was betrayed, he took bread
and gave you thanks.
He broke the bread and gave it to his friends, and said,
'Take and eat. This is my body given for you.
Do this in remembrance of me.'
After supper he took the cup
and gave you thanks.
He shared the cup with them and said,
'This is my blood poured out
so that sins may be forgiven.
Do this in remembrance of me.'

**Christ has died.
Christ is risen.
Christ will come again.**

You have gathered us together
to feed on Christ
and to remember all he has done for us:

Fill us with your Spirit
that we may follow Jesus
in all we do and say,
working for justice and bringing your peace
to this world that you have made.
Accept our prayers through Jesus Christ our Lord.
**Blessing and honour and glory and power
are yours for ever and ever. Amen.**

Sanitise Hands

We break this bread to share in the body of Christ.
We who are many are one body,
for we all share in the one bread.

***Jesus, Lamb of God, have mercy on us.
Jesus, bearer of our sins, have mercy on us.
Jesus, redeemer of the world, grant us your peace.***

The gifts of God for the people of God.

Come let us take this holy sacrament of the body and blood of Christ in remembrance that he died for us, and feed on him in our hearts by faith with thanksgiving.

Covid-19 Guidelines: Please come forward to receive communion (bread only). Maintain 1.5m separation as you move forward. Queue close to the pew – not in the centre of the aisle – in one line. Sanitise hands. Receive the bread while standing and return to your seat.

While others are receiving communion you may wish to listen or quietly sing along to the communion while remaining seated.

Communion Hymn (Not announced): Make Me a Chanel of your Peace (TiS 607)

Living God,
in this holy meal you fill us with new hope.
May the power of your love,
which we have known in word and sacrament,
continue your saving work among us,
give us courage for our pilgrimage,
and bring us to the joys you promise.

**Most loving God,
you send us into the world you love.
Give us grace to go thankfully and with courage
in the power of your Spirit.**

Announcements

Please stand for the blessing:

P: 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.

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

P: Hymn **For the Beauty of the Earth** (TiS 137)

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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