

Service of Prayer, Reflection and Thanksgiving for Creation

Thursday 13th October 2016

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Jesus says in John 10:10 – ‘I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly.’

Thinking of people who are often lonely, cold and hunger at this time, we bring forward any gifts for the Homeless Ministry of the Dublin Central Mission during the singing of our first hymn.

HYMN 37 – Come ye thankful people come

Let us bless God, to acknowledge that nothing in nature is to be taken for granted.

Blessed are you O God,
maker of heaven and earth,
giver of all good things.

Creation sings your praises

Blessed are you O Christ,
Son of God eternal
Bringer of good news to the poor.

Creation cries out for your justice

Blessed are you O Holy Spirit,
Giver of life and renewal,
Uniting us in worship and service.

Creation longs for your wisdom.

Creating God, your name is written in every leaf, every bird, every river, every living being.

Thank you for calling us by name.

Thank you for your continuing creating power in moisture, rivers and oceans.

Make us attentive to the wounds of the earth and willing to work for the healing of the whole creation.

PSALM 104: 1-4

We are the people of God, the Almighty.

Created in the image of God.

We are the people of God, the Redeemer.

Loved by Jesus Christ, carriers of reconciliation.

We are the people of God, the Giver of Life.

Open to the inspiration of the Spirit in faith, hope and love.

Praise to you, Creator of heaven and earth.

You give us the food of the earth and the water of the well.

Praise to you Jesus Christ, who walked our ways.

You have revealed the will of God and the holiness of the earth.

Praise to you, Holy Spirit, Giver of Life.

You awaken our song of praise in faith and struggle.

REFLECTION based on Genesis 1 and 2

Let us pray,

Most provident God, you graciously give us all good gifts, teach us to care for our earth: to till our soil responsibly, to keep our air pure, to free our waters from pollution, to harvest the warmth of our sun, and to respect the rights of all species. May we willingly share the gifts of your goodness with one another. We ask this of you, God of our universe. **Amen.**

COLLECT for Harvest

Lord of the harvest, with joy we have offered thanksgiving for your love in creation. By your grace plant within us such reverence for all that you give us, that we may be wise stewards of the good things we enjoy; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

CREDAL STATEMENT

We believe in God, creator of heaven and earth, who set the time of day and night and the passing of the seasons, who created the diversity of the planet and enabled its abundance.

We believe in Jesus Christ, light of the world, who taught us the meaning of good news and demonstrated it in action, who commanded us to share our bread and to drink from the same cup.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, giver of life and renewal, who opens up the possibility for change and assures us of hope for the future, who grants us time to amend our lives and unites us in our quest for justice, peace and the integrity of creation.

PLEDGE

We pledge ourselves to live responsibly and use only our fair share of the earth's resources. And we call upon those in positions of power and influence in the Dail, in the Seanad, in the House of Commons, in the Assembly, in city, borough and county councils, to bring honour to your creation, and in the systems and structures of our nations, redress the injustice of climate change.

READING: 2 Corinthians 9: 6-15

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Creator God, you give light and life, and express delight in your creation. You gave the command to till and care for your garden, but have abused the beauty of creation.

We confess we have not taken care to understand the earth, and care for it.

We have taken the climate for granted and unthinkingly polluted the earth.

We confess the churches' lack of concern for the well-being of creation.

We confess the excesses within our own daily lives, our pursuit of comfort and pleasure at the expense of the earth.

Creator God, we have desecrated your creation and darkened your light.

Blessed is the one who shows mercy.

Forgive our lack of compassion and respect for the world:

Creator God, forgive us and help us to change our ways.

Blessed is the one whose heart is pure.

Forgive us when we call for others to change yet fail to examine the lives we lead.

Creator God, forgive us and help us to change our ways.

Blessed is the one who strives for peace.

Forgive our squabbles over the earth's bounty which sends God's people to war.

Creator God, forgive us and help us to change our ways.

Blessed is the one who strives for peace.

Forgive our squabbles over the earth's bounty which sends God's people to war.

Creator God, forgive us and help us to change our ways.

Blessed are those who give their lives in the service of others and our planet earth.

Forgive us when we forget we live in one world, as one people, neighbours to each other, and to the whole of Creation.

[A short silence is kept for consideration and reflection]

WORDS OF RENEWAL

God of life and God of light,

As we seek a new relationship with your creation may we sense the grace and peace of a new relationship with you. Amen.

HYMN 80 – Great is thy faithfulness.

COMMUNITY BLESSING

Blessed are we when we sing your praises and walk faithfully on your earth.

Blessed are we when we proclaim your justice and enjoy together the fruits of creation.

Blessed are we when we are guided by your wisdom and live in harmony with your world. Amen.

Thank you for the gifts you have brought to chapel. They will be distributed to those who are in greatest need, through the voluntary teams working with the Homeless Ministry of the Dublin Central Mission. New volunteers welcome!

Hymns from *Church Hymnal* (5th Ed.) C, reproduced under licence from CCLI,
Licence Numbers 1344568 and 1344575.

Material in this service from 2003 Lutheran World Federation Assembly in Winnipeg and

www.ecocongregationireland.com