

12 SEPTEMBER 2021
HOME SERVICE GUIDE
SIXTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Season of Creation: Week 2
Ecology: Protecting our common home

A very warm welcome to everyone who has joined us for our worship service this morning.



Welcome & Greeting

Call to Worship

May none of your wonderful creations cease in their praise of you, God of beauty and wonder – neither at night nor in the morning. May the glimmering stars, the breath-taking mountains, the fathomless depths of the sea, the crashing waves, the singing streams all burst out in songs of praise to you, the Creator of all: Father, Son and Holy Spirit!

We join the angels before the throne in singing “Amen! Amen! Amen!” Power and majesty, praise and honour are due to you, Granter of infinite mercy.
Amen! Amen! Amen!

The Angelus prayer from Archbishop Thabo

**God bless the world,
Give it wisdom at this time,
Grant us relief and release,
Be with those who are ill,
And bless the carers fighting this pandemic,
For Jesus Christ’s sake. Amen**

INTRODUCTION

The Lord be with you
And also with you

Praise the Lord
Praise him you servants of the Lord

Blessed be God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit
Blessed be his name, now and for ever

Gloria

**Glory to God in the highest
And peace to his 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**

Collect for Purity (APB 105)

**Almighty God
to whom all hearts are open
all desires known
and from whom no secrets are hid:
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**

Kyrie Eieison

You delight in creation, its colour and diversity. Yet we have misused the earth and plundered its resources for our own selfish ends.

Lord, have mercy
Lord have mercy

You have showered us with blessings, but we have been grudging towards others and lacking in generosity in word and deed

Christ, have mercy
Christ, have mercy

Penitence (APB: Pg.106)

Jesus said, 'You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul and with all your mind.' This is the first and great commandment. And the second is like it. 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.' On these two commandments depend all the law and the prophets.

Prayer of Confession

Creating God, you give light and life, and express delight in your creation. You gave the command to till and care for your garden, but we have abused the beauty of creation and keeping of your work. We confess the plundering of finite resources. We confess to stealing our descendants' birth right to life. We confess the flagrant pollution of land, sea and air. We confess the churches' lack of concern for the well-being of creation. We confess the excesses within our own lifestyle. Creating God, we have desecrated your creation and darkened your light. In a moment of quiet we confess our profligate lifestyle and human greed. Amen

Absolution

Almighty God, who forgives all who truly repent, have mercy on you, pardon your sins and set you free from them; confirm and strengthen you in all goodness and keep you in eternal life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

Collect: Season of Creation: Week 2

Jesus, redeemer of our common home and provider for all of creation; Teach us to value the habitats of all your creatures given into our care, so that we can preserve the world in all of its diversity. Inspire us to value your precious gifts and never to take more than we can give, For you live and reign in the diversity of the Blessed Trinity, Creator, Redeemer and Sustainer. Amen

Our Parish Prayer

Lord our God, thank you for calling St Augustine's to be your church in our city. Help us to welcome you in all people, to praise you in prayer and worship, to love you, through serving this parish and the community, to travel and grow in faith together,

**to be a community of love and service in our world through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.**

First Reading: Proverbs 1: 20-33

Psalm: Psalm 19

Second Reading: James 3: 1-12

Hymn/Song: SOF 261 I want to walk with Jesus Christ

I want to walk with Jesus Christ,
all the days I live of this life on earth;
to give to Him complete control
of body and of soul.

*Follow Him, follow Him, yield your life to Him -
He has conquered death, He is King of kings;
accept the joy which He gives to those
who yield their lives to Him.*

I want to learn to speak to Him,
to pray to Him, confess my sin,
to open my life and let Him in,
for joy will then be mine.

*Follow Him, follow Him, yield your life to Him -
He has conquered death, He is King of kings;
accept the joy which He gives to those
who yield their lives to Him.*

I want to learn to speak of Him –
my life must show that He lives in me;
my deeds, my thoughts, my words must speak
all of His love for me.

*Follow Him, follow Him, yield your life to Him -
He has conquered death, He is King of kings;
accept the joy which He gives to those
who yield their lives to Him.*

I want to learn to read His word,
for this is how I know the way
to live my life as pleases Him,
in holiness and joy.

*Follow Him, follow Him, yield your life to Him -
He has conquered death, He is King of kings;
accept the joy which He gives to those
who yield their lives to Him.*

O Holy Spirit of the Lord,
enter now into this heart of mine;
take full control of my selfish will

and make me wholly Thine!

*Follow Him, follow Him, yield your life to Him -
He has conquered death, He is King of kings;
accept the joy which He gives to those
who yield their lives to Him.*

Gospel: Mark 8: 27-38

Sermon

Affirmation of Faith

God, the source of our being and the goal of all our longing, we believe and trust in you. The whole earth is alive with your glory, and all that has life is sustained by you. We commit ourselves to cherish your world, and to seek your face.

O God, embodied in a human life we believe and trust in you. Jesus our brother, born of the woman Mary, you confronted the proud and the powerful, and welcomed as your friends those of no account.

Holy Wisdom of God, firstborn of creation, you emptied yourself of power, and became foolishness for our sake. You laboured with us upon the cross, and have brought us forth to the hope of resurrection. We commit ourselves to struggle against evil, and to choose life.

O God, life-giving Spirit, Spirit of healing and comfort, of integrity and truth, we believe and trust in you. Warm-winged Spirit, brooding over creation, rushing wind and Pentecostal fire, we commit ourselves to work with you and renew our world.

Amen

(All desires known, Janet Morley)

Prayers of the Church

Creator God, the freedom and responsibilities we were gifted by you have been abused. We have used domination rather than being stewards of your sacred Creation. Walls are created to keep others out instead of in where all are welcome. Help us to trust in our identity as your children. Accept our thanks for all people who show in action that indeed your Creation is sacred.

Lord, in your mercy

Hear our prayer

Creator God, hear us as we cry out to you for peace and justice for the peoples and the land itself. Guide us to a place where sacred water, land and resources are respected and shared by all. As your Word became part of your living creation, teach us to trust in hope that one day soon all may dwell in peace and happiness. May your justice truly course through our lands like an unstoppable flood.

Lord, in your mercy

Hear our prayer

Creator, we give thanks for Mother Earth and all her abundant life. She protects us and nourishes us. Help us to conserve nature and serve all Creation. Continue to reveal yourself through your sacred creation. Help us to shape ourselves within the warmth of each day and every time we allow new wisdom to guide us and help us grow

God our Creator, not long ago, we took for granted that food was produced and shared in local community. Today we live within the consequences of the choices we have made and now the nourishment of Mother Earth is not available to all.

Lord, in your mercy
Hear our prayer

Great Creator, heal and redeem the wounds of your Creation. We know the food which grows from your Creation is meant for all. Help us find ways to bring nourishment to the people and places that seek it. Teach us and show us the way.

Lord, in your mercy
Hear our prayer

Creator God of earth, sea, and sky, ignite the sacred fire of your Spirit within us that we may rise up to heal and defend Mother Earth, and pour your blessing upon all who work for the caring of all your Creation.

Lord, in your mercy
Hear our prayer

Creator, you made the world and declared it to be good: The beauty of the trees, the softness of the air, The fragrance of the grass speaks to us. The summit of the mountains, the thunder of the sky, The rhythm of the lakes speaks to us. The faintness of the stars, the freshness of the morning, The dewdrops on the flower speak to us. But above all, our heart soars for you speak to us in your Son, Jesus Christ, In whose name we offer these prayers.

Amen

The Peace (APB p 115)

“...no one can tame the tongue...From the same mouth come blessing and cursing. My brothers and sisters, this ought not to be so.” (James 3: 8-10)

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

Peace be with you.

The Presentation of Gifts (APB p116) Use Your Home-Made Collection Boxes.

Lord we thank you for all give to us. Out of your provision we bring this offering today, praying that you will bless it and guide us to use it well to build up your Kingdom here.

Amen

The Lord's Prayer

Said in a language of your choice

Invitation to Communion

Holy indeed are you, O God, and holy is your eternal Word, your living Wisdom, the firstborn of all creation, who, for us and for our salvation, took flesh in the womb of Mary, was born and lived among us. And, being found in human form, he humbled himself, even to death on a cross, to deliver us from sin and death and to exalt us to everlasting life.

Spiritual Communion prayer (APB p 516)

One who is unable to receive the Sacrament physically may make a spiritual communion, and be certain that Christ comes to them in this way as surely as he does in the Sacrament.

**Jesus, may all that is you flow into me.
May your body and blood be my food and drink.
May your passion and death be my strength and life.
Jesus, with you by my side enough has been given.
May the shelter I seek be the shadow of your cross.
Let me not run from the love which you offer
But hold me safe from the forces of evil.
On each of my dyings shed your light and your love.
Keep calling to me until that day comes when, with your saints, I may praise you forever. Amen.**

Conclusion (APB p 129)

Give thanks to God for God is gracious
God's mercy endures for ever.

All this day O Lord, let me touch as many lives as possible for you.
And every life I touch, may you by your spirit quicken, whether through the word I speak, the prayer I breathe or the life I live. Amen
(The Mothers Union Prayer)

**Father almighty
we offer ourselves to you
as a living sacrifice
in Jesus Christ our Lord.
Send us out into the world
in the power of the Holy Spirit**

**to live and work
to your praise and glory.**

A Prayer for Africa:

**God, bless Africa
protect our children
transform our leaders
heal our communities
restore our dignity
and give us peace;
for Jesus Christ's sake.
Amen**

Walk with love and care on God's earth, walk with vital awareness of God's comprehensive vision and purpose for creation. Walk with awe and gratitude to ensure justice to the trees and rivers as well as the person next to you – they are not without purpose in God's vision. And the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, be with you, and all whom you love and pray for today and always.

Amen

(Ven Taimalelagi Fagamalama Tuatagaloa, Samoa USPG "For such a time as this")

Dismissal (APB 129)

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