

This is God's World – COP 26

Pershore Abbey Iona Service 26th September 2021 5pm

WELCOME and INTRODUCTION:

GATHERING SONG: 🎵

All: As we are gathered, Jesus is here, one with each other, Jesus is here.
Born of the Spirit, washed in the blood, part of the body, the church of God.
As we are gathered, Jesus is here, one with each other Jesus is here.

OPENING RESPONSES:

Leader: Believing that God made and loves the world,
ALL: **we gather.**
Leader: That it may be restored to fulfil God's purposes,
ALL: **we pray.**
Leader: To seek a wisdom deeper than our own,
ALL: **we listen.**
Leader: To honour God who gave us a voice,
ALL: **we worship.**

PRAYER OF THANKS FOR CREATION:

Leader: Let us pray - Thank you God, thanks for beauty:
the twinkle in an older person's eye, a child's shout of laughter;
thanks for greening trees and frozen waterfalls,
stunning buildings and flowerbeds in summer.

All **Thanks for beauty.**

Leader: Thank you God, thanks for creativity:
the skills of the tapestry weaver, the imagination of a web designer;
thanks for bakers and dancers and crossword compilers,
for spiders webs and city murals.

All: **Thanks for creativity.**

Leader: Thank you God, thanks for abundance;
for seeds and raindrops, for grains of sand and infinite galaxies;
thanks for seagulls, plankton and shoals of mackerel,
for wriggling worms and golden dandelions.

All: **Thanks for abundance.**

Leader: Thanks for your world, God, and for our part in it.
Thanks that you are the maker, and that you made us makers too.

All: **Help us to love creation as you love it,
to take risks to value it as Jesus did,
and draw us into the wilderness in wonder of your Holy Spirit today and every day.
Amen.**

SONG: 🎵 1. All the wonder that surrounds us, springs from God's care:
all that marvels or confounds us, raw, rich or rare;
touch and texture, sights and voices, nature's countless forms and choices:
all for which the heart rejoices, springs from God's care.

2. Every creature, every human, lives by God's grace:
 every family, man and woman, culture and race;
 those whom fortune seems to favour, those exploited for their labour,
 those who need to know a neighbour, live by God's grace.

3. How can we revere God's goodness, meant for all time?
 How ensure that each uniqueness, keeps in its prime?
 How can we revere with pleasure, all God gives for life and leisure,
 how preserve each earthly treasure, meant for all time?

4. God has willed that peace and justice, walk hand in hand.
 These, with love, shall build foundations, on which we stand:
 love for lover, friend and stranger, love defying death and danger,
 love at first born in a manger – heaven close at hand.

REFLECTION: 'On the Eighth Day'

Leader: "God saw that all that had been made, and it was very good. Evening and morning came, the sixth day."

Thus, the heavens and the earth and everything in them was completed. On the sixth day God made an end to the work, and on the seventh day, having finished, God blessed the day and made it Holy, because it was the day which marked the completion of the work of creation.

Narrator: After the making of heaven and earth, and after the time of resting and after the Lord had been returned from being flesh, and after the Spirit's sending, God gazed in love on creation. And behold, the world had lost its innocence and thick darkness brooded everywhere.

♪ Kyrie Eleison

Narrator: On the eighth day, God looked on humanity and humanity was in a mess - emaciated by hunger, bloated by excess, maimed by war, blinded by bigotry.

The guardians of the earth seemed to serve their basest desires and stumble towards the abyss. And God said,

God: What has happened to the children I lifted to my cheek, whose names are written on the palms of my hands? This is not good, I call on the evening and I call on the morning to witness my displeasure; and I long for a different day.

♪ Kyrie Eleison

Narrator: On the ninth day, God looked at the creatures, and earth's creatures were in a mess – fish riddled with micro beads, birds deprived of their habitat, the beasts of the wild hunted for their body parts; the beasts of the field, over exploited for food. And God said,

God: Where now is the swallow that nested in my house? Where now is the donkey who carried my Son? This is not good, I call on the evening and I call on the morning to witness my displeasure; and I long for a different day.

♪ Kyrie Eleison

Narrator: On the tenth day God looked at the sky, and the sky was in a mess – The ozone layer was no longer friendly, weather systems had lost their predictability, the stars which symbolised the harmony of heaven feared for the militarisation of the galaxy. And God said,

God: Has the sunset lost its fascination? Must the tapestry be torn which I carefully embroidered? This is not good. I call on the evening and I call on the morning to witness my displeasure and I long for a different day.

♪ Kyrie Eleison

Narrator: On the eleventh day God Looked at the produce of the soil, and the produce of the soil was in a mess- Fields meant to feed the hungry were planted with cash crops for 'civilised' cravings, pastures had become deserts through constant overgrazing, rainforests had disappeared through a lust for easy money. And God said,

God: Where are the lilies better dressed than Solomon? Where is the buzzing of the bees? This is not good, I call on the evening and I call on the morning to witness my displeasure; and I long for a different day.

♪ Kyrie Eleison

Narrator: On the twelfth day, God looked at the land and the sea; and the land and sea were a mess – contaminated by waste, debilitated by detergent, fouled by artificial fertiliser, drained of natural goodness. And God said;

God: How can the valleys laugh and sing? How can the deep sea roar? How can the mountains skip like rams if nature is in mourning? This is not good. I call on the evening and I call on the morning to witness my displeasure; I long for a different day. **♪ Kyrie Eleison**

Narrator: On the thirteenth day, God looked at light and darkness; and light and darkness were in a mess – truth was in exile, honesty was belittled, cheap pleasure wore the mantle meant for love, and the religion of the privileged was proclaimed heir to the throne of the saviour of the poor. And God said,

God: Who can believe what I have seen? To whom did I think I had revealed my power? This is not good. I call on the evening and I call on the morning to witness my displeasure; and I long for a different day.

♪ Kyrie Eleison

Narrator: On the fourteenth day, God looked away from the world which had been created out of love and shaped with deep beauty, and God wept. **♪ Kyrie Eleison**

Narrator: When the time of weeping was done, God said,

God: I have kept faith with the children of earth, but they do not keep faith with me.

I have promised and given nature's kindly gifts asking that they be treated well, enjoyed and shared. I have promised and given deep fulfilment in life asking for the safeguarding of creation that her abundance may keep flowing.

O, children of earth, you have witnessed my love, how little I witness yours!

In silence I wait, I plead and I wait. Do not grieve me. Let there be light from this darkness! Let me witness your love! I long for that day.

♪ Kyrie Eleison

TIME OF REFLECTION: *(Music will be played.)*

PRAYER OF REGRET:

All: In the light of your word and your call to care for creation,
we come to say sorry, God.

We are sorry for the times we have messed up,
sorry for bad decisions we 've made,
sorry for people we have hurt,
sorry for damaging your world.

We seek your forgiveness
for ourselves and healing for the world.

SONG: **♪** *(sing 3 times)*

This is God's world, given on loan,
no other earth shall be our home;
So let us bless, honour and tend
what God in love created.

PRAYER for the COP26 Conference:

Leader: Loving creator at this moment in history when humanity must take account of earth's destiny, give to those leaders who gather in Glasgow a sense of urgency, a perception of necessity and the wisdom and will to secure the health and wellbeing of the world at whatever cost to wealth, political advantage or prestige.

All: And give us all a vision of the world restored to health
that is worthy of all those yet to be born
and worth all the work, sacrifice and commitment
which is ours to offer. **Amen**