

GOD'S GOOD EARTH

Pershore Abbey Iona Service 22nd August 2021 5pm

WELCOME and INTRODUCTION:

GATHERING SONG: 🎵 (*sing x 3*) **God welcomes all, strangers and friends,
God's love is strong and it never ends.**

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.**

SONG: 🎵 **Oh the life of the world is a joy and a treasure,
unfolding in beauty the green growing tree,
the changing of seasons in mountain and valley,
the stars and the bright restless sea.**

**Oh the life of the world is the breath of our being,
it is fragile and precious and offers a choice;
shall we share the earth wisely, can we touch the earth gently,
will we listen to earth's silenced voice?**

**So give thanks for the life and give love to the Maker,
and rejoice in the gift of the bright risen Son,
and walk in the peace and the power of the Spirit,
till the days of our living are done.**

PRAYER:

Leader: God, God the Maker, maker of colour, sound, texture, movement,
and the ceaseless beauty in living things,

ALL: **we bless you.**

Leader: God, God the Maker, maker of granite and mustard seed,
of grey cloud and starlight, of earthquake and heartbeat,

ALL: **we bless you.**

Leader: God, God the Maker, maker of all that is unseen,
of all that has been, of all that words could never capture,

ALL: **we bless you.**

Leader: God, God our Maker, we, the children of your love, the beneficiaries of your kindness, the guardians of your creation, bless you.

ALL: **We bless you for your making, your trusting, your loving, your never-ending goodness. Amen.**

REFLECTION: Gratitude, Regret and Commitment

(To help reflect on environmental issues, you may wish to have with you three objects or pictures that remind you of Gratitude, Regret and Commitment. There will be some readings, music and time for quiet reflection. If you are in the Abbey, you can add your objects to the three tables, labelled Gratitude, Regret and Commitment.)

RESPONSE: *(A time to share your thoughts if you wish.)*

Leader: What at this moment does God require of us?

SONG: ♪ *(‘Kyrie Eleison’ - Lord have mercy. Sing 4 times.)*

Kyrie eleison. Kyrie eleison. Kyrie eleison.

PRAYER: *(from the United Nations Sabbath Programme):*

Leader: Eternal God, give us hearts to understand never to take from creation’s beauty more than we can give,
never to destroy wantonly for the furtherance of greed,
never to deny to give our hands for the building of earth’s beauty,
never to take from her what we cannot use.

ALL: **Give us hearts to understand
that to destroy earth’s music is to create confusion,
that to wreck her appearance is to blind us to beauty,
that to callously pollute her fragrance is to make a house of stench,
and that as we care for her, she will care for us. Amen.**

PRAYER for the COP26 Conference:

Leader: Loving Creator, at this moment in earth’s 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 the cost to wealth, political advantage or prestige.

ALL: **And give to us all a vision of a world restored to full 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.**

AFFIRMATION: *(stand if you wish)*

Leader: We believe that this is God’s world and all that lives on it;

ALL: **we believe that living gratefully and giving generously are marks of faith.**

Leader: We believe that all of humanity should have equal access to the earth’s resources,

ALL: **and that every individual must now act to preserve this world
so that the children of tomorrow will not be burdened
by the mistakes of today.**

Leader: And so, we commit ourselves
ALL: to think globally, to trade fairly, to live responsibly,
and to love this world as God loves it,
who in Christ became one with creation. Amen.

SONG: 🎵

**Not as earth's lords but as its friends we're called to care as God intends:
the fertile fields to till and groom, the desert wastes to bring to bloom;
and through technology and skill the hungry of the world to fill
with what God made their right to be – the nourishment of land and sea.**

**Yet avarice has made us blind to suffering earth and humankind,
as science, soured in thought and deed, serves profit, pride or human greed.
Fauna and flora wilt and die, pollution threatens soil and sky,
and selfish nations disagree on how to treat air, land and sea.**

**O God, who wills that we be wise, confront our minds, our hearts, our eyes,
with how we desecrate our worth, by fouling sea and raping earth.
Shame and subdue our perverse skill, in word to care, in fact to kill.
Redeem our stained technology, to mend and manage earth and sea.**

**Thus may the earth reclaim its good, supporting life, producing food.
through healthy water, soil and air, sustaining creatures everywhere.
Then trees indeed shall clap their hands, and children safely sculpt the sands,
and all shall honour heaven's decree, and serve as friends, air, land and sea.**

Leader: Now go in peace to enjoy the earth,
and care for creation in partnership with God,
who in Christ has honoured and blessed us.

All: **Gathered and scattered**
God is with us
In suffering and hope
God is with us
Now and always
God is with us.
Amen.