

Douglas Union of Parishes with Frankfield
The Sixth Sunday of Easter
Rogation Sunday
17th May 2020

A Service prepared by the Revd Hazel Minion for use at home.

*Where two or more people are gathered for worship, the sentences **in bold type** are read by all.*

On this Rogation Sunday we are particularly conscious of God our Creator, the beauty of the world, the intricacies of nature and our responsibility to all people and all creatures in our environment, asking his blessing on all we do.

HYMN 25 – All things bright and beautiful (verses 1&2) *sung by Veronica Tadman*

GREETING

Alleluia! Christ is risen.

The Lord is risen indeed. Alleluia.

Opening Prayer

We come before you, our God and Sustainer,
remembering that you are our Creator and the source of all being.
Out of your love, the universe was born.
From primordial darkness you put in place
all that is needed for growth and saw that it was good.
You have put this world into our hands:
may we recognise your Spirit within it,
disturbing and challenging us to care for creation,
for the weak and the deprived.
Lord we remember that we are called by you
to nourish the earth and its diversity of life,
to share the gifts you have given with one another
and with the poor of the world. **Amen**

PENITENCE

Hear the words of the prophet Isaiah: 'The earth dries up and withers...the earth lies polluted under its inhabitants, for they have transgressed laws...broken the everlasting Covenant.' (*Isaiah 24:4-5*)

Let us confess our sins against God and mankind's abuse of his Creation:

When we demand cheap food without thought of the well-being of the growers, the farm animals or the land itself,

Lord, have mercy, **Lord, have mercy.**

When we fail to consider those who produce our food in difficult conditions for meagre rewards,

Christ have mercy, **Christ have mercy.**

When we forget to give thanks to God for good food and clean water,

Lord have mercy, **Lord have mercy.**

May almighty God have mercy on us,
forgive us our sins, and bring us to everlasting life,
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

THE COLLECT OF THE DAY

God our redeemer,
you have delivered us from the power of darkness
and brought us into the kingdom of your Son:
Grant, that as by his death he has recalled us to life,
so by his continual presence in us he may raise us to eternal joy;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

MINISTRY OF THE WORD

Reading – Isaiah 41: 17-20 *Read by Gay Elmes, the parish link person with Eco Congregation Ireland.*

When the poor and needy seek water, and there is none,
and their tongue is parched with thirst,
I the LORD will answer them,
I the God of Israel will not forsake them.
I will open rivers on the bare heights,
and fountains in the midst of the valleys;
I will make the wilderness a pool of water,
and the dry land springs of water.
I will put in the wilderness the cedar,
the acacia, the myrtle, and the olive;
I will set in the desert the cypress,
the plane and the pine together,
so that all may see and know,
all may consider and understand,
that the hand of the LORD has done this,
the Holy One of Israel has created it.

This is the Word of the Lord
Thanks be to God

PSALM 66: 7-18

- 7 Bless our God, O you peoples;
make the voice of his praise to be heard,
8 Who holds our souls in life
and suffers not our feet to slip.
9 For you, O God, have proved us;
you have tried us as silver is tried.
10 You brought us into the snare;
you laid heavy burdens upon our backs.
11 You let enemies ride over our heads;
we went through fire and water;
but you brought us out into a place of liberty.
12 I will come into your house with burnt offerings
and will pay you my vows,
which my lips uttered
and my mouth promised when I was in trouble.
13 I will offer you fat burnt sacrifices
with the smoke of rams;
I will sacrifice oxen and goats.
14 Come and listen, all you who fear God,
and I will tell you what he has done for my soul.
15 I called out to him with my mouth
and his praise was on my tongue.
16 If I had nursed evil in my heart,
the Lord would not have heard me,
17 But in truth God has heard me;
he has heeded the voice of my prayer.
18 Blessed be God, who has not rejected my prayer,
nor withheld his loving mercy from me.

The Gospel: John 14: 15-21 *Read by David Wolfe, who planted with wildflower area in Franksfield churchyard.*

Jesus said: 'If you love me, you will keep my commandments. And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Advocate, to be with you for ever. This is the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him, because he abides with you, and he will be in you.

‘I will not leave you orphaned; I am coming to you. In a little while the world will no longer see me, but you will see me; because I live, you also will live. On that day you will know that I am in my Father, and you in me, and I in you. They who have my commandments and keep them are those who love me; and those who love me will be loved by my Father, and I will love them and reveal myself to them.’

This is the Word of the Lord
Thanks be to God

Sermon

HYMN 25 – All things bright and beautiful (verses 3 & 4) *sung by Veronica Tadman*

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.
I believe in Jesus Christ,
his only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead.
On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

INTERCESSIONS

Let us ask the God of creation to send a blessing upon us.

Upon the rich earth send a blessing, O Lord.
Let the earth be fruitful and its resources be hallowed.

We ask in faith: **we ask you to hear us, good Lord.**

Upon human labour send a blessing, O Lord.

Prosper the work of our hands;
may all find dignity and just reward in their work;
may those temporarily unable to work find purpose in their days;
free the exploited and oppressed
and give hope those who are unemployed.

We ask in faith: **we ask you to hear us, good Lord.**

Upon the produce of the earth send a blessing, O Lord.
Guide us into a sustainable future,
and give us the will to share the fruits of the world.

We ask in faith: **we ask you to hear us, good Lord.**

Upon the seas and waters send a blessing, O Lord.
Teach us to cherish the water of the earth,
and to conserve the seas, lakes and rivers.

We ask in faith: **we ask you to hear us, good Lord.**

Upon aid agencies send a blessing, O Lord.
Where the earth is parched and the well has run dry;
where war brings want, and children go hungry;
where the poor cry out for bread and for justice,
give hands to care and heal
and compel us to be generous.

We ask in faith: **we ask you to hear us, good Lord.**

Upon all who work to bring healing and health, send a blessing, O Lord.
Especially in these days of pandemic, guide with your wisdom all who are engaged
in research
And all making decisions that affect the lives of others.

We ask in faith: **we ask you to hear us, good Lord.**

Upon your church, send a blessing, O Lord,
That when she makes decisions, they may show faith in you who made us in your
image and gave us the good earth.

We ask in faith: **we ask you to hear us, good Lord.**

The Lord's Prayer

CONCLUDING PRAYER

May the road rise up to meet you;
may the wind be always at your back,
may the rain fall softly upon your fields;
may God hold you in the hollow of his hand.

Amen. *(Gaelic blessing)*

Blessing and Dismissal

God the Father, who created the world,
give us grace to be wise stewards of his creation. **Amen.**

God the Son, who redeemed the world,
inspire us to go out as labourers into his harvest. **Amen.**

God the Holy Spirit, whose breath fills the whole of creation,
help us to bear his fruits of love, joy and peace. **Amen.**

And the blessing of God almighty,
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,
be among us/you and remain with us/you always. **Amen.**

Tend the earth, care for God's good creation, and bring forth the fruits of
righteousness. We go in the peace of Christ. **Thanks be to God. Amen.**

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Organ improvisation on Hymn 24 - 'All creatures of our God and king'
by Mark Slade.

*Thanks too all the parishioners who sent me pictures of their gardens and greenhouses, their fields
and farm animals which were used in the recorded version of this service. Adrian Wilkinson*

