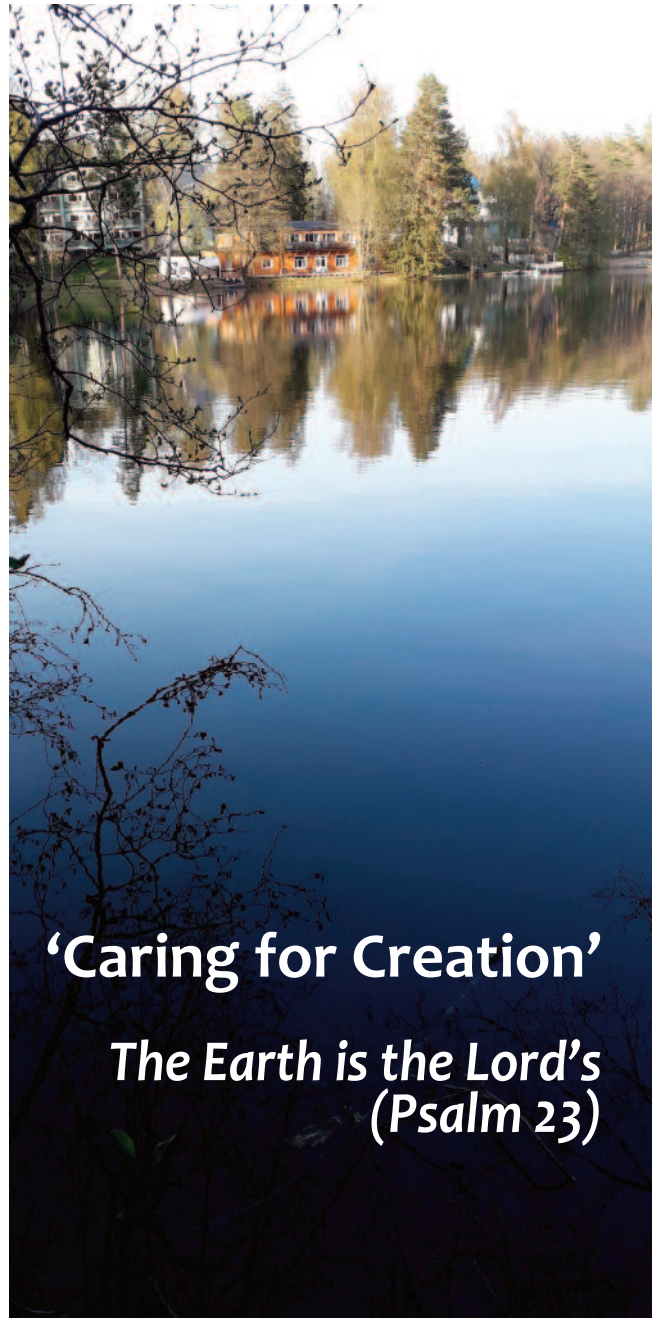


in case anyone would like some individual prayer, we will be available in the side chapels after the service

*If you would like to be part of our Reflections team, helping us to put together the service and/or deliver it, please speak to any one of the team.*

The Parish Church of St Andrew  
and St Cuthman, Steyning

# REFLECTIONS



**‘Caring for Creation’**

**The Earth is the Lord’s  
(Psalm 23)**

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**2 July 2023**

## Music on entrance

### Look at the World - (John Rutter)

Look at the world  
Everything all around us  
Look at the world  
And marvel every day  
Look at the world  
So many joys and wonders  
So many miracles  
Along our way

*Chorus: Praise to the O Lord for all creation  
Give us thankful hearts that we may see  
All the gifts we share and every blessing  
All things come of thee*

Look at the earth  
Bringing forth fruit and flowers  
Look at the sky  
The sunshine and the rain  
Look at the hills  
Look at the trees and mountains  
Valley and flowing river  
Field and plain

Think of the spring  
Think of the warmth of summer  
Bringing the harvest  
Before the winter's cold  
Everything grows  
Everything has a season  
Till it is gathered to the fathers fold

Every good gift  
All that we need and cherish  
Comes from the Lord  
In token of his love  
We are his hands  
Stewards of all his bounty  
His is the earth and his the heavens above

*Praise to the O Lord for all creation  
Give us thankful hearts that we may see  
All the gifts we share and every blessing  
All things come of thee  
All things come of thee*

## Concluding music

### The Deer's Cry (Arvo Pärt)

Christ with me, Christ before me, Christ  
behind me,  
Christ in me, Christ beneath me, Christ  
above me,  
Christ on my right, Christ on my left,  
Christ when I lie down, Christ when I sit  
down,  
Christ in me, Christ when I arise,  
Christ in the heart of everyone who thinks  
of me,  
Christ in the mouth of everyone who speaks  
of me,  
Christ in every eye that sees me,  
Christ in every ear that hears me.  
Christ with me.

*(text based on ancient Irish Poem, Saint Partick's  
Breastplate)*

*Please feel free to stay to the end of the  
concluding music, or to leave quietly while the  
song is playing.*

## Words of Welcome

## Do Not Walk Proudly On The Earth

*(A meditation based on sura 17:37 of the Qur'an, from The Way of the Pilgrim, Cliff Reed (1993))*

"Do not walk proudly on the earth..."  
Remember that we are her children, born of  
her forests, plains and seas.

"Do not walk proudly on the earth..."  
Remember that her rivers give us life, flowing  
from white mountains and green hills to  
water our fields and our cities.

"Do not walk proudly on the earth..."  
Remember her offspring, sharers and partners  
with us in the web of creation, manifestations  
of the infinite variety.

"Do not walk proudly on the earth..."  
Remember her people, our sisters and  
brothers in humanity, yearning for peace and  
plenty, life and liberty

May there be balance and harmony on the  
earth,  
and may we not walk proudly upon her.

## Blessing

May the blessing of the God who empowers  
us  
The God who loves us  
And the God who sustains us  
Go with us and remain with us  
And with our fragile earth and all its people  
**Amen**

*2 Corinthians 13:11-14*

So God created humankind in his image, in  
the image of God he created them; male and  
female he created them. God blessed them,  
and God said to them, 'Be fruitful and  
multiply, and fill the earth and subdue it; and  
have dominion over the fish of the sea and  
over the birds of the air and over every living  
thing that moves upon the earth.' God said,  
'See, I have given you every plant yielding seed  
that is upon the face of all the earth, and  
every tree with seed in its fruit; you shall have  
them for food. And to every beast of the  
earth, and to every bird of the air, and to  
everything that creeps on the earth,  
everything that has the breath of life, I have  
given every green plant for food.' And it was  
so. God saw everything that he had made, and  
indeed, it was very good. And there  
wasevening and there was morning, the sixth  
day.

**Genesis 1:27-31**

## Reading: Poem

### In Praise of Earth: (John O'Donohue)

Let us bless  
The imagination of the Earth.  
That knew early the patience  
To harness the mind of time,  
Waited for the seas to warm,  
Ready to welcome the emergence  
Of things dreaming of voyaging  
Among the stillness of land.

And how light knew to nurse  
The growth until the face of the Earth  
Brightened beneath a vision of colour.

When the ages of ice came  
And sealed the Earth inside  
An endless coma of cold,  
The heart of the Earth held hope,  
Storing fragments of memory,  
Ready for the return of the sun.

Let us thank the Earth  
That offers ground for home  
And holds our feet firm  
To walk in space open  
To infinite galaxies.  
Let us salute the silence

And certainty of mountains:  
Their sublime stillness,  
Their dream-filled hearts.

The wonder of a garden  
Trusting the first warmth of spring  
Until its black infinity of cells  
Becomes charged with dream;  
Then the silent, slow nurture  
Of the seed's self, coaxing it  
To trust the act of death.

The humility of the Earth  
That transfigures all  
That has fallen  
Of outlived growth.

The kindness of the Earth,  
Opening to receive  
Our worn forms  
Into the final stillness.

Let us ask forgiveness of the Earth  
For all our sins against her:  
For our violence and poisonings  
Of her beauty.

Let us remember within us  
The ancient clay,  
Holding the memory of seasons,  
The passion of the wind,  
The fluency of water,  
The warmth of fire,  
The quiver-touch of the sun  
And shadowed sureness of the moon.

That we may awaken,  
To live to the full  
The dream of the Earth

Who chose us to emerge  
And incarnate its hidden night  
In mind, spirit, and light.

## Bible Verses for Reflection

1. Consider the lilies, how they grow; they neither toil nor spin: yet I tell you, even Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these. **Luke 12:27**

*One of Britain's rarest butterflies has finally taken up residence on Steyning Downland Scheme*

2. I brought you into a plentiful land to eat its fruits and its good things. But when you entered you defiled my land. **Jeremiah 2:7**

*The predicted impacts of climate change in West Sussex include more frequent and intense flooding, storms, drought and episodes of extreme heat.*

3. The heavens are telling the glory of God: and the firmament proclaims his handiwork. **Psalms 19:1**

*The rare white stork that vanished from the British countryside over 400 years ago has been successfully reintroduced in West Sussex.*

4. The earth dries up and withers, the world languishes and withers, the heavens languish with the earth. The earth is defiled by its people; they have disobeyed the laws, violated the statutes and broken the everlasting covenant. **Isaiah 24:4-6**

*Drought, storms, heatwaves and warming oceans can directly harm animals, destroy the place they live and wreak havoc on communities (WWF)*

## Music into Reflection

### Da Pacem Domine (Arvo Pärt)

Da pacem, Domine, in diebus nostris  
Quia non est alius  
Qui pugnet pro nobis  
Nisi tu Deus noster.

*Give peace in our time, O Lord  
Because there is none other  
that fighteth for us  
But only thou, O God.  
(Book of Common Prayer, 1549 onwards)*

## Reflective Silence

*(We will keep a period of silence  
for 12-15 minutes)*

## Music out of Silence:

### Music of American Indians