

Please feel free to leave when you feel ready
– or stay to the end.

Please take this sheet home with you.

There will be no Reflections service in
November, as we have the candlelit All
Souls service on the first Sunday in the
month

If you would like to be part of the Reflections
team – please let one of us know.

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Reflections

*A quiet contemplative service
lasting about 40 minutes*

GOD'S CREATION

**Sunday 5 October
6pm**

*The Parish Church of
St Andrew and St Cuthman,
Steyning*

REFLECTIONS

Sunday 5 October

GOD'S CREATION

MUSIC ON ENTRANCE

Création de Monde

*Written and played by
Evángelos Papathanassiou
(Vangelis – 1943-2022)*

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WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION

POEM

The Wonder of Creation

I'm not ashamed to admit
that I'm in love with creation -
not for its own sake
but for what it tells me about you.

The mountains may move me,
my spirit may rest in the river's bed,
and the birds of the air may fill me with
wonder
but all because their beauty
points beyond themselves
and leaves me gazing at the Master's hand,
awed by his artistry,
lulled by his love.

Nature is a sweet song,
a familiar melody on the tip of your tongue
whose origins you can't quite recall
until you join in the chorus
and with a bittersweet longing remember,
feeling the Spirit gather around you.
Your soul recognizes the mother
who birthed its existence...
the source of all love...
the source of all beauty...

We are all drawn to the wonder of creation
because it offers us a glimpse,
a taste of what's to come.
You feel eternal power in the forest.
You find something supernatural
looking in the clear, cool stream.

it groans in travail. Triune Lord, teach us to
contemplate you in all the beauty of the
universe, for all things speak of you. Give us
the grace to feel profoundly joined to
everything that exists, as brothers and
sisters. Awaken our praise and
thankfulness for every being that you have
made. Inspire us to listen to the cries of the
earth and the poor, and to sow beauty, not
pollution. Give us the wisdom and strength
to work for the healing of the whole
creation and to avoid the sin of
indifference. Show us our place in this
world as channels of your love for all
creatures, for not one of them is forgotten
in your sight.

Amen

BLESSING

CONCLUDING MUSIC

May We Rise

*Alleluia, praise our maker
Alleluia, one and all
May God fill our lives with pleasures
May we rise and never fall*

Gather round and sing together
All God's people, where you are
Sun and moon and stars about you
Heaven and earth will praise our God

Play your pipes and play your whistle
Play your harp and string and drum
Raise your voice with grateful singing
Every breath shall praise our God

From the depths and from the heavens
Fiery storms and bitter snows
All creation will adore you
You are God for evermore

Sing a new song with thanksgiving
To the God who's with us now
Praise our God with joy and dancing
For God loves us, one and all

*Based on psalms 148, 149 and 150
Written and performed by Kiran Young Wimberly
and the McGraths*

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Romans 8:22-23 - We know that the whole creation has been groaning in labour pains until now; and not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the first fruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly while we wait for adoption, the redemption of our bodies.

Romans 1:20 - Ever since the creation of the world his eternal power and divine nature, invisible though they are, have been understood and seen through the things he has made. So they are without excuse;

Isaiah 55:12 - For you shall go out in joy, and be led back in peace; the mountains and the hills before you shall burst into song, and all the trees of the field shall clap their hands.

POEM

As imperceptibly as grief

As imperceptibly as grief
The summer lapsed away, —
Too imperceptible, at last,
To seem like perfidy.
A quietness distilled,
As twilight long begun,
Or Nature, spending with herself
Sequestered afternoon.
The dusk drew earlier in,
The morning foreign shone, —
A courteous, yet harrowing grace,
As guest who would be gone.

And thus, without a wing,
Or service of a keel,
Our summer made her light escape
Into the beautiful.

By Emily Dickinson

PRAYERS

A Prayer for the Earth

Creator God, your name is written on every leaf, every river, every stone, and every living being. We praise and worship you for the magnificence and complexity of your creation, a gift of your love. Jesus, son of God, through you all things were made. You became part of this earth, and today you are alive in every creature. Holy Spirit, by your light you guide this world towards the Father's love and accompany all creation as

So I'm not ashamed to admit
I'm in love with creation
because it's your work,
close to your heart,
and you love it
like any artist loves their work.

But most of all I love it
because I find you there,
because my heart hears you the loudest
among the pines and oaks of the forest,
swimming with the minnows of the creeks,
dancing with the fireflies in the summer skies,
and scurrying with the squirrels
up trees and jumping from limb to limb.

*From 'Along the Barren Road'
by Justin Farley*

BIBLE READING

Then God said, 'Let us make humankind in our image, according to our likeness; and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the wild animals of the earth, and over every creeping thing that creeps upon the earth.'
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 was evening and there was morning, the sixth day.

Genesis 1:26- 31

MUSIC INTO SILENCE

Creation Sings

Creation sings the Father's song;
He calls the sun to wake the dawn
And run the course of day,
Till evening comes in crimson rays.
His fingerprints in flakes of snow,
His breath upon this spinning globe,
He charts the eagle's flight,
Commands the newborn baby's cry.

Hallelujah!

Let all creation stand and sing:

"Hallelujah!"

Fill the earth with songs of worship,

Tell the wonders of creation's King.

Creation gazed upon his face;
The ageless one in time's embrace,
Unveiled the Father's plan
Of reconciling God and man.
A second Adam walked the earth,
Whose blameless life would break the curse,
Whose death would set us free
To live with him eternally.

Creation longs for his return,
When Christ shall reign upon the earth;
The bitter wars that rage
Are birth pains of a coming age.
When he renews the land and sky,
All heaven will sing and earth reply
With one resplendent theme:
The glories of our God and King.

*Performed by Stuart Townend (b1963)
by Keith & Kristyn Getty and Stuart Townend
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PERIOD OF SILENT REFLECTION (10-12 minutes)

Please feel free to move around the church, if you wish, to reflect and pray.

MUSIC OUT OF SILENCE

For the Beauty of the Earth

For the beauty of the earth
For the beauty of the skies
For the love which from our birth
Over and around us lies
Over and around us lies

*Lord of all, to thee we raise
This our joyful hymn of praise*

For the beauty of the hour
Of the day and of the night
Hill and vale and tree and flower
Sun and moon and stars of light
Sun and moon and stars of light

For the joy of human love
Brother, sister, parent, child
Friends on earth and friends above
For all gentle thoughts and mild
For all gentle thoughts and mild

For each perfect gift of thine
To our race so freely given
Graces human and divine
Flow'rs of earth and buds of heav'n
Flow'rs of earth and buds of heav'n

*Arranged and conducted by John Rutter (b1945)
From a hymn by Folliott S Pierpoint (1835-1917)*

*Performed by the Cambridge Singers
and the London Sinfonia*

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MEDITATION ON BIBLE VERSES

Genesis 1:28 - 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.'

Psalms 24:1 - The earth is the Lord's and all that is in it, the world, and those who live in it;

Psalms 104:24-25 - O Lord, how manifold are your works! In wisdom you have made them all; the earth is full of your creatures. Yonder is the sea, great and wide, creeping things innumerable are there, living things both small and great.