

A SERVICE FOR ROGATIONTIDE

The Gathering

The Lord is here

His Spirit is with us

Introduction

We need to re-connect with the natural world about us. Our modern way of living insulates us from the changing seasons, from heat and cold, and from where our food comes from. And we have our centrally heated homes and air-conditioned cars. Our worship ought to re-connect us with the natural world, God's creation. We need to remember we are made from the dust of the earth, and to dust we will return. Creation is crying out because of the harm we have inflicted on her. So, let us begin by giving thanks to God, our creator, and remember, as Martin Luther said "The Gospel is not only found in the pages of the Bible but is written in the trees and the flowers, in nature all around us."

Bless the Lord all you works of the Lord:

sing his praise and exalt him for ever.

Bless the Lord you heavens:

sing his praise and exalt him for ever.

Bless the Lord you angels of the Lord:

bless the Lord all you his hosts;

sing his praise and exalt him for ever.

From the Benedicite CW

Short Address

All Sing:

We plough the fields and scatter the good seed on the land,

but it is fed and watered by God's almighty hand:

he sends the snow in winter, the warmth to swell the grain,

the breezes and the sunshine, and soft refreshing rain.

All good gifts around us are sent from heaven above;

then thank you, Lord, O thank the Lord for all his love.

Reader 1

"The treatment of the Earth by man the exploiter is not only imprudent, it is sacrilegious. We are not likely to correct our hideous mistakes in this realm unless we recover the mystical sense of our oneness with nature. Many people think this is fantastic. I think it is fundamental to our sanity."

William Temple, Archbishop of Canterbury 1942-44

Reader 2: Job 12. 7-10

"...ask the animals, and they will teach you;

the birds of the air, and they will tell you;

ask the plants of the earth, and they will teach you;

and the fish of the sea will declare to you.

Who among all these does not know
that the hand of the Lord has done this?
In his hand is the life of every living thing
and the breath of every human being.”

Prayer:

Dear Lord and Father, we are sorry that we so often forget that all creation belongs to you, and that you have made us responsible for its wellbeing. Forgive us for the damage we have inflicted on our earth, and on our fellow creatures - like the birds and the animals, and so much wildlife. Help us, to turn to you, to change our ways and in humble love and service to cherish your whole creation.

Lord in your mercy Hear our prayer

Bless the Lord sun and moon:

bless the Lord you stars of heaven;

bless the Lord all rain and dew:

sing his praise and exalt him for ever.

Bless the Lord you springs:

bless the Lord you seas and rivers;

bless the Lord you whales and all that swim in the waters:

sing his praise and exalt him for ever.

From the Benedicite CW

Reader 3: John 4. 13 & 14

Jesus said: “Everyone who drinks of this water will be thirsty again, but those who drink of the water that I will give them will never be thirsty. The water that I will give will become in them a spring of water gushing up to eternal life.”

Prayer:

Lord we thank you for water which is so precious.

Water to cleanse and revive us. Without water we cannot survive.

We remember those who struggle to find water every day. Those living in areas of the world affected by drought often caused by man-made climate change.

But we also thank you for the water of life that Jesus gives us. That inner spring in each one of us, filling us with hope and peace; giving us the will to love and serve one another, especially those who have so little. Lord fill us with the water of life, now and always.

Lord in your mercy Hear our prayer

All Sing:

He only is the Maker

Of all things near and far;

He paints the wayside flower,

He lights the evening star;

The winds and waves obey Him,

By Him the birds are fed;

Much more to us, His children,

He gives our daily bread.

***All good gifts around us are sent from heaven above;
then thank you, Lord, O thank the Lord for all his love.***

O let the earth bless the Lord:

bless the Lord you mountains and hills;

bless the Lord all that grows in the ground:

sing his praise and exalt him for ever.

Bless the Lord all birds of the air:

bless the Lord you beasts and cattle;

bless the Lord all people on earth:

sing his praise and exalt him for ever.

From the Benedicite CW

Reader 4: Deuteronomy 11. 13-15

If you will only heed his every commandment that I am commanding you today—loving the Lord your God, and serving him with all your heart and with all your soul— then he will give the rain for your land in its season, the early rain and the later rain, and you will gather in your grain, your wine, and your oil; and he will give grass in your fields for your livestock, and you will eat your fill.

Prayer:

Grant favourable weather, temperate rains, and fruitful seasons, that there may be food and drink for all creatures.

Hear us, good Lord.

Bestow your blessing upon the lands and waters, and all who work upon them, to bring forth food and all things needful for your people.

Hear us, good Lord.

Prosper all who care for the earth, the water, and the air, that the riches of your creation may abound from age to age.

Hear us, good Lord.

Lord, we ask your blessing on all farm animals, that we rely on for so much of our food; bless the farmers and all those who in charge of these wonderful animals; may they care for them, and enable them to have stress free lives.

Hear us, good Lord.

CW & BD

All Sing:

We thank Thee then, O Father,

For all things bright and good,

The seedtime and the harvest,

Our life, our health, our food;

Accept the gifts we offer

For all Thy love imparts,

And what Thou most desirest—

Our humble, thankful hearts.

***All good gifts around us are sent from heaven above;
then thank you, Lord, O thank the Lord for all his love.***

Bless the Lord all birds of the air:
bless the Lord you beasts and cattle;
bless the Lord all people on earth:
sing his praise and exalt him for ever.
Bless the Lord all winds that blow:
bless the Lord you fire and heat;
bless the Lord scorching wind and bitter cold:
sing his praise and exalt him for ever.

From the Benedicite CW

Reader 5: Luke 12. 24-27

Consider the ravens: they neither sow nor reap, they have neither storehouse nor barn, and yet God feeds them. Of how much more value are you than the birds! And can any of you by worrying add a single hour to your span of life? If then you are not able to do so small a thing as that, why do you worry about the rest? Consider the lilies, how they grow: they neither toil nor spin; yet I tell you, even Solomon in all his glory was not clothed like one of these.

Prayer:

Lord help us not to destroy but to protect the wild, free places of this planet, which are a precious haven for so much wildlife, flora, and fauna. Help us see the harm that we humans have done in the past, and work together to bring back from certain extinction many species of wildlife.

Lord in your mercy Hear our prayer

All Sing

**All people that on earth do dwell,
sing to the Lord with cheerful voice:
serve him with joy, his praises tell,
come now before him and rejoice!**

**Know that the Lord is God indeed,
he formed us all without our aid;
we are the flock he loves to feed,
the sheep who by his hand are made.**

Praise be to you, my Lord, for our sister Mother Earth, who gives us her fruits in due season

Praise him and magnify him for ever

St Francis

Reader 6: Genesis 2. 8-10

And the Lord God planted a garden in Eden, in the east; and there he put the man whom he had formed. Out of the ground the Lord God made to grow every tree that is pleasant to the sight and

good for food, the tree of life also in the midst of the garden, and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. A river flows out of Eden to water the garden, and from there it divides and becomes four branches.

Prayer:

Thank you, Lord, for our gardens and allotments, for the digging and planting, for the growing and the harvest; through all this may our faith be renewed by your Spirit which brings new life and hope, and may we be inspired to care for all your creation.

Lord in your mercy Hear our prayer

All Sing

**O enter then his gates with praise,
and in his courts his love proclaim;
give thanks and bless him all your days:
let every tongue confess his name.**

**For God, our mighty Lord is good,
his mercy is for ever sure;
his truth at all times firmly stood,
and shall from age to age endure.**

Reader 7: Colossians 3. 13 - 14, 17

Bear with one another and, if anyone has a complaint against another, forgive each other; just as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. Above all, clothe yourselves with love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

Prayer:

Remember, Lord, your mercy and loving-kindness towards us.
Bless this good earth, and make it fruitful.
Bless our labour, and give us all things needful for our daily lives.
Bless the homes of this parish and all who live within them.
Bless our common life and our care for our neighbour.

Lord in your mercy Hear our prayer

All Sing

**Praise God the Father, God the Son,
and God the Spirit evermore;
all praise to God the Three - in - One,
let heaven rejoice and earth adore!**

The earth has yielded its harvest;

God, our God, has blessed us.

You visit the earth and water it;

you make it very plenteous.

You soften the ground with showers;

and bless the increase of it.

You crown the year with your goodness;

and your paths overflow with plenty.

The meadows are clothed with sheep;

the valleys stand so thick with corn,

they shout for joy and sing.

cf. Psalms 65 & 67

Reader 8: Isaiah 28. 23 – 26

Listen, and hear my voice;

Pay attention, and hear my speech.

Do those who plough for sowing plough continually?

Do they continually open and harrow their ground?

When they have levelled its surface,

do they not scatter dill, sow cumin,

and plant wheat in rows and barley in its proper place,

and spelt as the border?

For they are well instructed; their God teaches them.

Prayer:

Lord, you give us this good earth,

yet we take your generous gifts for granted.

Lord, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy.

Lord, you give us this good earth,

but we squander its rich resources.

Christ have mercy.

Christ have mercy.

Lord, you give us this good earth,

but we fail to share your bounty with all your children.

Lord, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy.

All Sing:

Praise, my soul, the King of heaven,

to his feet your tribute bring;

ransomed, healed, restored, forgiven,

who like you his praise should sing?

Alleluia, alleluia!

praise the everlasting King.

Praise him for his grace and favour

to our fathers in distress;

**praise him, still the same as ever,
slow to blame and swift to bless;
Alleluia, alleluia!
glorious in his faithfulness.**

Prayer:

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;
free the exploited and oppressed.
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.**

We remember all those who had gone before us: we benefit from
the labours of our ancestors, as others we hope will benefit from
our labours when we have gone. Let us hope we leave God's
creation in a better state than we found it!

**We ask you to hear us, good Lord,
for the sake of your Son,
our Saviour Jesus Christ.
Amen.**

Reader 9: Philippians 4. 4-7

Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with

thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

All Sing:

**Angels, help us to adore him;
you behold him face to face;
sun and moon, bow down before him,
praise him all in time and space.**

Alleluia, alleluia!

praise with us the God of grace.

The Blessing

May God the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,
who is the source of all goodness and growth,
pour his blessing upon all things created,
and upon us his children,
that we may use his gifts to God's glory and the welfare of all
peoples;
and may the blessing of God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit be with
us, and remain with us, now and always.

Amen

*Much of the material comes from the Anglican worship resource, Common Worship (CW), other prayers are by Canon Brian Davis me.
Readings are from NRSV.*