

## **Scallop service for Christian Aid Week**

Words of hymns subject to copyright may not be reproduced instead we have referenced hymn books\* and supplied links to YouTube videos.

*\* MHON: Methodist Hymns Old & New; StF: Singing the Faith*

*The references in italics can be copied and pasted into your browser so that you can listen or join in with the music if you wish to do so.*

*If you wish to join with others for the service at 10:30 on Sunday morning please contact [marian.blyth@btinternet.com](mailto:marian.blyth@btinternet.com)*

**This service has been prepared by Churches together in Sharnbrook**

**Welcome to the service - Together we stop this climate Crisis**

### **Call to Worship**

O sing to the Lord a new song, sing to the Lord, all the Earth.  
Sing to the Lord, bless his name; tell of his salvation from day to day.  
Declare his glory among the nations his marvellous works among all the peoples.  
For great is the Lord, and greatly to be praised.

**HYMN For the beauty of the earth** (MHON212; StF 102)

*note this clip is of an unfamiliar but the only tune that I could find*

<https://youtu.be/9blg7usVkJI>

### **Prayer of Approach**

Come and celebrate our common home  
we gather with the family of humanity.  
With the mountains, islands and deserts  
we honour the glory of God in creation.  
With the lakes, rivers and seas  
we come to the source of living water.  
With the land, its soil, seeds and sustenance  
we give thanks for God's generous provision.  
With the forests of great trees, the lungs of the planet  
we will sing with joy and clap our hands.  
We join with the whole of creation,  
inspired by those who have gone before  
and the prophetic voices of today.  
We dare to praise and pray for another possible world.  
To the glory of God, Amen.

*Adapted: 'We are the Amazon', an ecumenical act of solidarity and justice for the Amazon and its people.*

### **Psalm 96:11-13**

Let the heavens be glad, and let the earth rejoice;  
let the sea roar, and all that fills it; let the field exult, and everything in it.  
Then shall all the trees of the forest sing for joy before the Lord;  
for he is coming, for he is coming to judge the earth.  
He will judge the world with righteousness, and the peoples with his truth.

### **Prayer of Lament**

The Earth does not rejoice warming gases fill the atmosphere pollution turns  
clean air foul climate breakdown wreaks havoc.

The sea roars with the grief of all the plastic that fills it  
of the destruction of coral reef.

The fields exclaim despair for delayed rains and prolonged drought for species  
extinction on a daily basis.

No song of joy rings out from the trees of the forest decimated by forest fires.  
How long O God, how long until your justice comes for all your creatures  
and the Earth?

In you we put our trust. Amen

### **Prayer of Confession**

For the beauty of the Earth desecrated by pollution  
extinguished by forest fire choked by plastic waste  
Christ, our God, to you we plead forgive us for systemic greed.  
For the urgency of this hour ignored by apathy or procrastination  
wasted by ineffective decisions denied by economic interests  
Christ, our God and Saviour, forgive us for selfish short-term behaviour.

For the joy of human love fractured by forced migration  
crushed by bereavement lost to typhoons, floods, starvation  
Christ, our God, bringer of justice forgive us for this climate crisis.

**HYMN God in his love for us lent us his planet** (MHON 243; StF 727)

<https://youtu.be/r4AeZoZatu8>

### **Absolution**

Almighty God, who forgives all who truly repent,  
have mercy upon you, pardon and deliver you from all your sins,  
confirm and strengthen you in all goodness, and keep you in life eternal;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

### **Saying YES**

Because we are God's forgiven people, we will care for each other.

Because we are part of God's creation, we will care for the Earth.

Because we are loved by God, we will share God's love with everyone.

*Absolution and Saying Yes, Iona Community Worship Book, 2017.*

### **Micah 6:1-9 A script for three readers**

#### **Reader 1**

Listen my people. I need to talk with you.

I have questions. I need answers.

I have cared for you. I rescued you from slavery. I gave you wise leaders, both women and men.

You need to remember the stories of who I am and what I have done.

Listen my people.

I am talking to those of you who live in the countryside.

I am questioning those of you who live in cities and towns.

#### **Reader 2**

What have I done to you? How have I wearied you?

Speak, the mountains are listening to you.

The Earth is waiting to hear your voice.

What can I do? What can I bring to God?

#### **Reader 3**

What does God want of me? What will keep God happy? What will keep God off my back?

Would God be impressed with barrels and barrels of olive oil? Would God be satisfied with thousands of animals from my flocks?

Perhaps my riches are not enough?

Should I offer to God the life of my precious first-born child?

#### **Reader 1**

Listen mortal. Listen to what God says.

Look carefully at how God acts. Remember the stories of what God has done.

God has shown you clearly what is bad and what is good.

You are to do justice to act fairly. Do justice in the home and in the street and in the marketplace. Do justice in your community. Work with others to do justice globally.

Do justice with strangers and friends and family alike.

You are to love kindness. You are to be generous.

You are to share your resources and share them with a smile. You are to care for those in need.

You are to walk humbly with God. No pretence, no bluster. You are to walk wisely and purposefully.

You are to pray and wonder. You are to respect the Earth. You are to experience and learn who God is and what God is about.

Listen up mortal. God has told you what is good. So do it.

Do justice. Love kindness. Walk humbly with your God.

### **John 15:9-17**

9 As the Father has loved me, so I have loved you; abide in my love. 10 If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and abide in his love. 11 I have said these things to you so that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be complete.

12 "This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. 13 No one has greater love than this, to lay down one's life for one's friends. 14 You are my friends if you do what I command you. 15 I do not call you servants any longer, because the servant does not know what the master is doing; but I have called you friends, because I have made known to you everything that I have heard from my Father. 16 You did not choose me but I chose you. And I appointed you to go and bear fruit, fruit that will last, so that the Father will give you whatever you ask him in my name. 17 I am giving you these commands so that you may love one another.

### **Prayers of Intercession**

Dear God, We acknowledge our good fortune in living where we do. Every day we can see green trees even if we do not move outside our homes. Many of us have gardens where we can watch the miracles of new life from tiny seemingly dead seeds to tall plants and an infinite variety of flowers. We may have feeding tables visited by a variety of wild-life from bobbing robins and bright goldfinches to cooing pigeons and cheeky squirrels. We live close to open countryside where we can see the changes that each season brings and to riverbanks where herons, kingfishers and wagtails can be glimpsed.

Dear God as we delight in all that is around us let us not forget the fragility of the natural world, its dependence on a balance of sun, rain and wind to continue in the way in which we know it. Climate affects the ways of life for so many people, the land on which homes are built, the crops that are grown for food and the grazing for animals.

Remind us that we are stewards of your creation in every action that we take. Encourage us to be less selfish in our use of natural resources and to play our part in replenishing things that we use. Even if we often think that our contribution is so small as to be pointless let us continue to reduce, reuse and recycle whatever we can. Make us thoughtful of the world you created. Help us not to get bored by or overwhelmed with the continuing actions that we need to take.

Inspired by the breadth of your love, and the hope that you give us, empower us to take whatever actions we can to contribute positively to the continuing good health of your planet. Amen

Rejoicing in God's creation let us say with confidence as our Saviour has taught us **The Lord's Prayer**

Our Father who art in heaven Hallowed be thy name  
Thy kingdom come Thy will be done, On earth as it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread and forgive us our trespasses  
as we forgive those who trespass against us.  
And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil  
For thine is the kingdom the power and the glory  
For ever and ever Amen

Our final hymn is **How great thou art** (MHON574; StF 82)

<https://youtu.be/Cc0QVWzCv9k>

### **The Blessing**

May God bless us with wonder at creations glory  
May God bless us with fury at creation's spoiling.  
May God bless us with courage at this critical hour.

And may the blessing of God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit,  
rest upon us and on all creation, this day and for the future to come.

**Amen.**

*Blessing adapted from ACT Alliance*

