

**THE PARISH OF
WITNEY**



St Mary
the Virgin

**THE GREAT
BIG GREEN
WEEK** 

The Eucharist

Season of Creation

Peacemaking as home-building



**SEASON OF
CREATION**

Sunday 19 September 2021

10.45am

**We warmly welcome everyone
to Saint Mary's Church in the Parish of Witney.**

The Great Big Green Week will take place 18 – 26 September 2021, and will be the largest event for climate and nature ever seen in the UK. Thousands of events will celebrate how communities are taking action to tackle climate change and protect green spaces, and encourage others to get involved too.

Each year the Christian family joins from 01 September to 04 October in a celebration of the Season of Creation. As followers of Christ from around the globe, we share a common role as caretakers of God's creation. We see that our wellbeing is interwoven with its wellbeing. We rejoice in this opportunity to care for our common home and the sisters and brothers who share it.

This year the theme is 'A home for all? Renewing the Oikos of God'. It is our hope to work together to develop a larger Biblical and cosmological horizon, not only to be edified by the texts themselves, but to develop a new way to see Scripture, life, and Earth all in the Oikos of God and to acknowledge the wisdom from countless sisters and brothers helping all to renew our world as an interconnected and interdependent global beloved community.

In Genesis God set a dome over the Earth. The word "dome" is where we get words such as 'domicile' and 'domestic' — in other words, God puts us all in — all people, all life — under the same domed roof — we are all in the house, the *oikos* of God. God gave humans the ministry to take care and cultivate this *oikos* of God. The Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and others have called the *oikos* of God "the Beloved Community," a community in which all of life are equally members, though each has a different role.

The Procession

As the sacristy bell sounds all stand for a fanfare as the procession moves into place and we all sing with masks on the first hymn

Immortal, invisible, God only wise,
In light inaccessible hid from our eyes,
Most blessed, most glorious, the Ancient of Days,
Almighty, victorious, thy great name we praise.

Unresting, unhasting, and silent as light,
Nor wanting, nor wasting, thou rulest in might;
Thy justice like mountains high soaring above
Thy clouds which are fountains of goodness and love.

To all life thou givest to both great and small;
In all life thou livest, the true life of all;
We blossom and flourish as leaves on the tree,
And wither and perish but nought changeth thee.

Great Father of glory, pure Father of light,
Thine angels adore thee, all veiling their sight;
All laud we would render: O help us to see
'Tis only the splendour of light hideth thee.

Words: W Chalmer Smith, 1824-1908

Music: ST DENIO, Welsh Song

The Greeting

✠ In the name of the Creator of all things,
and of the Son, the firstborn of creation,
and of the Spirit, the breath in all life.

All **Amen.**

From Christ the wondrous Light of all mysteries:
Grace, mercy, and peace be with you

All **and also with you.**

We gather in the name of God, Creator, Redeemer,
and Sustainer of the Earth and all its creatures!

Praise be to the Holy Trinity! God is sound and life, Creator of the
Universe, Source of all life, whom the angels sing; wondrous
Light of all mysteries known or unknown to humankind, and life
that lives in all.

Hildegard of Bingen, 13th Century

The service is introduced

*Then a member of the Benefice Climate Group reads the words of
S Ambrose of Milan from the 4th century:*

‘The world has been created for everyone's use, but you few rich
are trying to keep it for yourselves. For not merely the possession
of the earth, but the very sky, the air, and the sea are claimed for
the use of the rich few... The earth belongs to all, not just to the
rich.’

The Confession

As we come into the presence of the God of all creation,
Let us hold silence as we prepare to confess our sins:

Christ Jesus, our sister Mother Earth cries out to us because of the harm we have inflicted on her by our irresponsible use and abuse of the goods with which God has endowed her.

God, have mercy.

All **God, have mercy.**

Christ Jesus, we have come to see ourselves as the controllers of our sister Mother Earth, entitled to plunder her at will.

God, have mercy.

All **God, have mercy.**

Christ Jesus, we have forgotten that we ourselves are dust of Mother Earth, our very bodies are made up of her elements, we breathe her air, and we receive life and refreshment from her waters.

God, have mercy.

All **God, have mercy.**

Adapted from Justice & Peace, Scotland

The Absolution

May the God of love and power
forgive you ✠ and free you from your sins,
heal and strengthen you by his Spirit
and raise you to new life in Christ our Lord.
Amen.

The Gloria

We sing the Gloria

Glory to God in the highest,

and peace to his people on earth.
Lord God, heavenly King,
almighty God and Father,
we worship you,
we give you thanks,
we praise you for your glory.

Lord Jesus Christ,
only Son of the Father,
Lord God, Lamb of God,
you take away the sin of the world:
have mercy on us;
you are seated at the right hand of the Father:
receive our prayer.

For you alone are the Holy One,
you alone are the Lord,
you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ,
with the Holy Spirit,
in the glory of God the Father. Amen.

The Collect

Let us pray:

God of the living earth
you called us to be part of your beloved community,
baptized into one family through the sacred waters of life
called to care together for your world.
guide us as we work to sustain our common home.
help us to find the path to living peace and harmony
with all your creatures
united by the divine dance of the Trinity.

All **Amen.**

The Liturgy of the Word

We sit for the first reading, Wisdom 1.16-2.1, 12-22. At the end

This is the word of the Lord.

All **Thanks be to God.**

Gradual Hymn

We stand to sing

I sing the mighty power of God, that made the mountains rise,
That spread the flowing seas abroad, and built the lofty skies.
I sing the wisdom that ordained the sun to rule the day;
The moon shines full at God's command, and all the stars obey.

I sing the goodness of our God, who filled the earth with food,
Who formed the creatures through the Word, and then pronounced them
good.
God, how your wonders are displayed, where'er I turn my eye,
If I survey the ground I tread, or gaze upon the sky.

There's not a plant or flower below, but makes your glories known,
And clouds arise, and tempests blow, by order from your throne;
While all that borrows life from you is ever in your care;
And everywhere that we can be, you, God are present there.

Words: Isaac Newton

Music: ELLACOMBE

We remain seated for the second reading, James 3.13-4.3, 7-8a. At the end

This is the word of the Lord.

All **Thanks be to God.**

The Gospel Reading

We stand as the Choir sings the Alleluia which heralds the Gospel, and we repeat:

Al - le - lu - ia, Al - le - lu - ia, Al - le - lu - ia.

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Al - le - lu - ia, Al - le - lu - ia, Al - le - lu - ia.

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All The Lord be with you
and also with you.

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to *Mark*.
All **Glory to you, O Lord.**

At the end

All This is the Gospel of the Lord.
Praise to you, O Christ.

Mark 9.30-37

The Sermon

We sit for the sermon

The Affirmation of Faith

Let us affirm our faith together:

All [L] [SEP] We have faith in One God, one Source of all life.
One Ground of the whole earth,
with all her creatures.

We have faith in the fullness of earth's life, in the innate worth of
all her dependents, in human partnership in the life of nature.

We have faith that in Christ we have been shown the special role
of the human race
to bear God's likeness in working and
caring for the earth,

in seeking to understand her mysteries and powers, in gently
working
with these powers for the well-being of all children of the earth.

We have faith
that God's Spirit will lead us to sensitive closeness with earth's
life.

ECEN

The Intercessions

In union with the whole creation let us offer our prayers and
praises to the God who showers gifts upon us from on high:

Lord, in your mercy
All hear our prayer.

Merciful Father,
All accept these prayers,

for the sake of your Son,
our Saviour Jesus Christ.
Amen.

The Liturgy of the Sacrament

The Peace

As a community let us embrace the ongoing work of being stewards of all your creation. We see God around us. Let us claim it. We see God within us. Let us share it. If we are in Christ, we are becoming a new creation. One Body. Let us show the caring nature you have instilled within us by greeting each other as a sign of God's justice of peace, love, forgiveness and grace.

The peace of our Creator be with you in all things
All and also with you.

Let us offer one another the sign of peace.

The Offertory Hymn

We stand as the Offertory Hymn is sung by the choir and the gifts of bread and wine are placed upon the Altar. Because of Covid, a collection is taken at the end of the service. The bread, wine and money are all gifts from God and our offering of them back to God is a sign of the offering of our lives in the Lord's service.

In order to maintain the safety of the congregation, we are not able to pass the offertory plate around at the moment. Instead you can give in one of three ways: i) There will be a collection plate as you leave the church by the West Door; ii) there is a contactless card reader by the door for you to use; iii) or you can text WITPCC to 70480 to donate £10. For other amounts text WITPCC followed by the amount that you wish to give to 70480 eg WITPCC15, WITPCC5 etc.

Lord of creation, to you be all praise!
Most mighty your working, most wondrous your ways!
Your glory and might are beyond us to tell,
and yet in the heart of the humble you dwell.

Lord of all power, I give you my will,
in joyful obedience your tasks to fulfill.
Your bondage is freedom, your service is song;
and, held in your keeping, my weakness is strong.

Lord of all wisdom, I give you my mind,
rich truth that surpasses man's knowledge to find.
What eye has not seen and what ear has not heard
is taught by your Spirit and shines from your Word.

Lord of all bounty, I give you my heart;
I praise and adore you for all you impart;
your love to inspire me, your counsel to guide,
your presence to cheer me, whatever betide.

Lord of all being, I give you my all;
if ever I disown you, I stumble and fall;
but, sworn in glad service your word to obey,
I walk in your freedom to the end of the way.

Words: Jack Winslow
Music: SLANE

Prayer over the Gifts

Let us pray:

Gracious God we thank you for inviting us to share the hospitality of your table and to enjoy the blessings of a bountiful earth. Call forth in us the same generosity as we find in you. In the power of your Spirit, raise up in us a hunger for justice, a commitment to kindness and a passion for service, that we may be a blessing in the world, in Jesus'



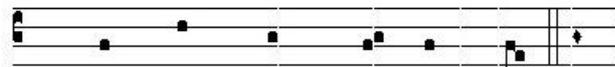
The Lord be with you



And al-so with you.



Lift up your hearts.



We lift them to the Lord.



Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.



It is right to give thanks and praise.

name. Amen.

The Eucharistic Prayer

It is meet and right to give thanks to you always,
O God, for you are the source of all life.

Since the beginning of time,
you have sustained us through the environment
that you established in creation.
You rule the universe with balance and generosity,
for which all creation never ceases to praise you.
Joining with the company of heaven
and all the creatures of the skies, earth, and seas,
we joyfully praise your holy name, singing:

All **Holy, holy, holy Lord,
God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.**

O God, our creator, you placed us in this world,
but did not leave us to live alone.
You surrounded us with your wondrous creation
that we might live in harmony with it,
taking only what is necessary to preserve our common life.
Of the world you made a garden for the flourishing of your
people,
yet we strayed from your path.
We judged ourselves powerful and mighty,
planting destruction between us and nature,
and creating a world of inequity,
imbalance, and discontent.
Countless times, your prophets led us to repentance
and new life,
yet we chose to walk in other ways and persist in our selfish
error.
In the fullness of time and in your infinite mercy,
you sent us your Son Jesus Christ, the source of new life.
He taught us to live in unity with you,

opening the doors to a new creation:
one reconciled to you and sustained by your love.

On the night he was betrayed, Jesus took bread.
Having given thanks to you,
he broke it and gave it to those who were with him, saying,
*“Take, eat. This is my Body which is given for you. Do this in
remembrance of me.”*

After supper, he took the cup of wine,
and having given thanks to you, he gave it to them, saying,
*“Take, drink. This is my Blood of the new and eternal Covenant
which is shed for the forgiveness of sins.
Do this in remembrance of me.”*

Great is the mystery of faith:
All **Christ has died:**
Christ is risen:
Christ will come again.

And, giving thanks to you for restoring us in the ways of your
Kingdom,
we offer you these gifts of bread and wine:
fruits of the earth and of your creation.
Sanctify them by your Holy Spirit,
that they may be for us ✠
the Body and Blood of your Son Jesus Christ.
Sanctify us also,
that in union with Christ we may fill the world with your love,
renewing it with the gift of your Gospel.

Preserve us in rebuilding the world around us
and restoring the balance of nature.

Grant that we may see in your creation that splendid garden,
worthy of respect and care.

Evermore strengthen your Church
in the struggle to preserve the environment
and the diversity of life within it.

And, at the last day,
bring us to your heavenly Kingdom,
where in the company of Mary the mother of God
and all your saints,
we may never cease to glorify you in the new creation of Jesus
Christ.

By Christ, with Christ, and in Christ,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
all honour and glory are yours,
Almighty God, now and forever.

All Amen.

The Lord's Prayer

Made in God's image and formed by God's love,
Let us pray in the Spirit as our Saviour taught us:

**Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
forgive us our sins,
as we forgive those who sin against us.
Lead us not into temptation
but deliver us from evil.**

For the kingdom,

the power and the glory
are yours now and for ever. Amen.

The Breaking of the Bread

The Priest breaks the consecrated host

We break this bread to share our unity with creation in
Christ and to share in the creativity of God.

All **Though we are many, we are one creation,
because we all share in the love of the creator.**

Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world:
have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world:
have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world:
grant us peace.

Come, for all things are now ready.
Come to the table with all who are gathered
and share with all in need:
the gift of healing for those in pain,
the gift of forgiveness for those in sin,
the gift of assurance for those in doubt,
and the gift of hope for those in tears.

All **May we who share these gifts,
share Christ with one another
and all our sisters and brothers.**

We break the bread for the whole world. We invite all who seek God

and are drawn to Christ, and all who walk the way of faith to come forward and receive the body and blood of Christ in one kind, as directed by the Sidesperson. Or you are warmly invited to come forward for a blessing – please carry this booklet and bow your head. Gluten free wafers are available on request.

The Communion Hymn

Healing is flowing, deep in the waters,
Flowing from Eden, flowing from old.
All through creation, God sends forth waters,
Oceans of healing, for all the world.

Healing is rising, fresh with the morning,
Healing is rising, bursting with grace.
Christ, our rich healing, deep in creation,
Heal Earth's deep wounds and rise in this place.

Healing is offered, leaves from the life tree,
Healing is offered nations at war.
Come, wounded Healer, torn by the violence,
Rise from the grave, bring peace to our shore.

Healing is given, flows from forgiveness,
Healing is given, flows from our faith.
Christ, give us heart to love your deep healing,
Living forgiveness, even in death.

Healing is rising, free in Christ's body,
Healing is flowing, free with Christ's blood.
May this deep healing pulse through our bodies,
Heal the world's wounds still bleeding and red.

Words: © Norman Habel 2000
Melody: BUNESSAN, Gaelic Melody

The Post Communion Prayer

After a period of silence, we stand with the Priest to pray

All God, the source of all that is,
with joy we have offered thanksgiving for your love in creation
and have shared in the bread and the wine of the kingdom:
by your grace plant within us a reverence for all that you give us
and make us generous and wise stewards of the good things we
enjoy.
Amen.

The Notices

We sit for the notices

The Blessing

We stand

The Lord be with you
All **and also with you.**

Walk with love and care on God's earth, walk with vital
awareness of God's comprehensive vision
and purpose for creation.
Walk with awe and gratitude
to ensure justice to the trees and rivers

as well as the person next to you –
they are not without purpose in God’s vision;
and the blessing of God almighty,
✠ Father, Son and Holy Spirit come down upon you
and remain with you always.

All **Amen.**

*Ven Taimalelagi Fagamalama Tuatagaloa,
Samoa USPG “For such a time as this”*

The Dismissal

As we prepare to leave
and embrace the challenges
of our lives and our world,
Go in the peace of Christ.

All **Thanks be to God.**

The Recessional Hymn

Father, Lord of all creation,
ground of Being, Life and Love:
height and depth beyond description
only life in you can prove:
you are mortal life's dependence
thought, speech, sight are ours by grace.

Yours is every hour's existence
sovereign Lord of time and space.

Jesus Christ, the Man for Others
we, your people, make our prayer
give us grace to love as sisters
all whose burdens we can share.
Where your name binds us together
you, Lord Christ, will surely be;
where no selfishness can sever
there your love may others see.

Holy Spirit, rushing, burning
wind and flame of Pentecost,
fire our hearts afresh with yearning
to regain what we have lost.
May your love unite our action,
nevermore to speak alone:
God, in us abolish faction
God, through us your love make known.

Words: Stewart Cross 1928-1989

Music: ABBOTS LEIGH, Cyril Taylor 1907-1991

Let us bless the Lord!
All **Thanks be to God!**

Everyone is welcome to greet one another and enjoy coffee outside the church after the Eucharist.

***On this Tuesday evening we have a special event
Turning the Tide of Climate Change***

For details please speak to Kate Banks



**Called to be a community
of mercy and kindness**

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