



A Communion Service Celebrating God's Creation

Setting: Ideally outdoors with a simple rough wooden communion table (a working table or picnic table would be fine), and people gathered in a semi-circle around it standing or sitting (chairs should be provided for those who find it hard to stand for long). Children could be gathered at the front sat on the grass or on mats / blankets.

- If the weather forecast is uncertain, a marquee or gazebo could be erected over at least the communion table.
- If amplification is needed, why not think about using a bicycle-powered generator for your worship? (www.electricpedals.com)



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THE GATHERING

The Greeting

The Lord be with you.
And also with you

Sentence of Scripture

"Sing to the Lord a new song, sing to the Lord all the earth. Sing to the Lord, praise his name, proclaim his salvation day after day." (Psalm 96.1-2)

Opening Hymn / Song:

Choose one or two of the following. See list of suggested hymns & songs for details

- Lord of all creation (God of wonders)
- Over the mountains and the seas
- Praise to the Lord, the almighty, the King of creation

Prayers of Penitence

In Jeremiah 12:4 we read, "How long will the land lie parched and the grass in every field be withered? Because those who live in it are wicked, the animals and birds have perished. Moreover, the people are saying, 'He will not see what happens to us.'" Let us call to mind our sin against the beauty and integrity of God's precious creation.

Please repeat the phrases 'Lord have mercy' and 'Christ have mercy' each time they are spoken.

Either:

Creator God, you made this earth and all its creatures to sing your praises. We confess that our overuse of resources and our destruction of habitats is turning creation's joyful music into the sound of mourning and the echo of silence.
Lord have mercy.

Lord have mercy.

Sustainer God, you uphold and cherish your world, and you call us to bear your image in tending and conserving the garden of creation. We confess that we have neglected your call, and failed to reflect your image in our care for your world.
Christ have mercy.

Christ have mercy.



Redeemer God, you sent your only Son to die and rise again, that all creation might be set free from its bondage to decay and all things might be made new in Christ. We confess that we have kept your good news to ourselves and failed to speak and live its truth for all your creatures.

Lord have mercy.

Lord have mercy.

Or (from 'Common Worship: Times & Seasons'):

You delight in creation' its colour and diversity;
Yet we have misused the earth
And plundered its resources for our own selfish ends.

Lord have mercy

Lord have mercy

You have brought order out of chaos,
Light in darkness, good out of evil,
But we have preferred darkness
In words and deeds which dishonour God's holy name.

Christ have mercy.

Christ have mercy.

You have showered us with blessings,
But we have been grudging towards others
And lacking in generosity in word and deed.

Lord have mercy.

Lord have mercy.

Absolution:

Almighty God who renews the face of the earth, cleanse you from the pollution of your sins, create in you a new heart, and renew your joy in serving him in his world.

Songs of Worship:

Choose from the following. See list of suggested hymns & songs for details

- Who's the King of the Jungle?
- Creation sings the Father's song
- Who paints the skies?
- You spread out the skies (Wonderful maker)
- You are the Lord of all creation (or sung before communion)
- Greater Designer, Master builder



Collect for Creation Time

Either (from the New Zealand Prayer Book):

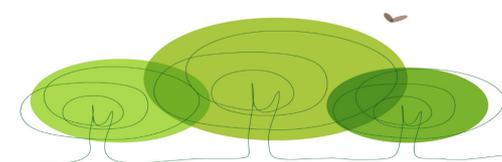
God of all the earth,
you have given us the heritage
of this good and fertile land;
grant that we may so respect and use it
that others may thank us
for what we leave to them;
through Jesus, the Christ,
who is alive with with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God now and for ever.
Amen.

Or:

Lord of creation,
Your world reveals your glory,
Grant us eyes to see your glory in all that you have made,
from the beauty of a sunset to the pattern of a snowflake.
Give us minds to grasp something of your purposes in creation
and the humility to take our place as co-workers
serving you in your garden.
Give us hearts to love you in loving all your works,
and tenderness in nurturing life in all its fulness.
Through Jesus Christ,
who is alive with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God now and for ever.
Amen.

Or (from Common Worship – alternative Harvest collect):

Creator God,
you made the goodness of the land,
the riches of the sea
and the rhythm of the seasons;
as we thank you for the harvest,
may we cherish and respect
this planet and its peoples,
through Jesus Christ our Lord.



THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

Readings: see suggestions, depending on which sermon is chosen.

A Gospel reading should usually be included in a communion service.

Sermon: see separate documents.

Responsive Hymn / Song: see list of suggested hymns & songs for details

- O Lord, the clouds are gathering (with extra words) or
- I, the Lord of sea and sky

Creed: either The Nicene Creed, or the following:

(from 'Common Worship: Creeds and Authorised Affirmations of Faith')

Do you believe and trust in God the Father,
source of all being and life,
the one for whom we exist?

We believe and trust in him.

Do you believe and trust in God the Son,
who took our human nature,
died for us and rose again?

We believe and trust in him.

Do you believe and trust in God the Holy Spirit,
who gives life to the people of God
and makes Christ known in the world?

We believe and trust in him.

This is the faith of the Church.

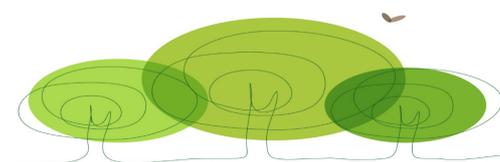
This is our faith.

**We believe and trust in one God,
Father, Son and Holy Spirit.**

Amen.

Prayers of Intercession: See separate document.

If the all-age prayer ideas are used, then these prayers should accompany the song after the sermon and either replace or precede the creed.



THE LITURGY OF THE SACRAMENT

The Peace

“For God was pleased to have all his fullness dwell in Christ Jesus and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether things on earth or things in heaven, by making peace through his blood, shed on the cross.” (Colossians 1:19-21)

The peace of the Lord be always with you
and also with you.

These words may be added:

Let us offer one another a sign of peace.

All may exchange a sign of peace.

Hymn / Song: One of the following. See list of suggested hymns & songs for details

- You are the Lord of all creation (including communion verse)
- Lord of creation
- For the beauty of the earth

Preparation of the Table

Taking of the Bread & the Wine

Blessed are you, Lord God of all creation:
through your goodness we have this bread to set before you,
which earth has given and human hands have made.
It will become for us the bread of life.

Blessed be God for ever.

Blessed are you, Lord God of all creation:
through your goodness we have this wine to set before you,
fruit of the vine and work of human hands.
It will become for us the cup of salvation.

Blessed be God for ever.

The Eucharistic Prayer

(adapted from Prayer F in Common Worship Rite A)

The Lord is here.
His Spirit is with us.

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.

You are worthy of our thanks and praise,
Lord God of life,
for by the breath of your mouth
you have spoken your word,
and all things have come into being.

You fashioned us in your image
and placed us in the garden of your delight
to tend and keep your creation.
Though we chose the path of rebellion
you did not abandon your people nor your world.

In the sign of the rainbow you drew all creatures into your covenant of grace.
In choosing a people for yourself you placed them in a land of plenty
and furnished them with laws and prophets to guide them
in seeking your reign of justice, mercy and peace.

As we watch for the signs of your kingdom on earth,
we echo the song of the angels in heaven,
evermore praising you and saying:

**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.**

Lord God, you are the most holy one,
enthroned in splendour and light,
yet in the coming of your Son Jesus Christ
you reveal the power of your love
made perfect in human weakness.
Amen. Lord, we believe.

Embracing our createdness,
Jesus showed the way of salvation;
loving to the end,
he gave himself to death for us and for all the world;
dying for all that he had made,
he set us free from the bonds of sin,
and released creation from its bondage to decay.
Amen. Lord, we believe.



On the night before he died
he took bread and gave you thanks;
he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying:
Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you;
do this in remembrance of me.

Amen. Lord, we believe.

In the same way, after supper he took the cup and gave you thanks;
he gave it to them, saying:

Drink this, all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant
which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins.
Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.

Amen. Lord, we believe.

Therefore, Father, with this bread and this cup
we celebrate the cross on which he died to set us free.
Defying death he rose again
and is alive with you to plead for us and all the world.

Amen. Lord, we believe.

As we recall the one perfect sacrifice of redemption for us and all the earth,
Father, by your Holy Spirit let these gifts of your creation
be to us the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ;
form us into the likeness of Christ
and make us a perfect offering in your sight.

Amen. Come, Holy Spirit.

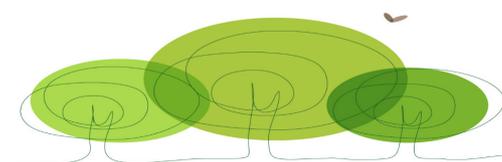
Look with favour on your people
and in your mercy hear the cry of our hearts.
Bless the earth,
heal the sick,
let the oppressed go free
and fill your Church with power from on high.

Amen. Come, Holy Spirit.

Gather your people from the ends of the earth
to feast with all your saints at the table in your kingdom,
where the new creation is brought to perfection
in Jesus Christ our Lord;
by whom, and with whom, and in whom,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
all honour and glory be yours, almighty Father,
for ever and ever.

Amen.

The Lord's Prayer



Gathering our prayers and praises into one,
as our Saviour has taught us, so we pray

**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.**

Breaking of the Bread

The president breaks the consecrated bread.

We break this bread to share in Christ's body,
broken for us and all the world.

**Though we are many, we are one body,
because we all share in one bread.**

Giving of Communion

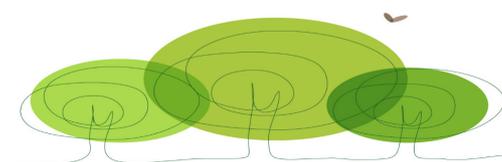
Draw near with faith.
Receive the body of our Lord Jesus Christ
which he gave for you,
and his blood which he shed for you.
Eat and drink
in remembrance that he died for you and all creation,
and feed on him in your hearts
by faith with thanksgiving.

The following, or other suitable words, are used.

The body of Christ, broken for you and for all the world.

The blood of Christ, shed for you and for all the world.

Prayer after Communion



Almighty God,
we thank you for feeding us at the banquet of your Son,
A foretaste of your new creation of peace and justice.
Through Jesus we offer you our souls and bodies
to be a living sacrifice.
Send us out into your world
in the power of your Spirit
to live and work to your praise and glory.
Amen.

Final Hymn / Song: One of the following. See list of hymns & songs for details

- You shall go out with joy (with extra verses)
- O Lord my God (How great Thou art)

THE DISMISSAL

The power of God, displayed in creation,
fill you with grace to serve God in his world;
The peace of God, breathing in every living thing,
enable you to spread God's peace wherever you go;
The love of God, which fills the universe,
flow through you that you might reflect his image,
and the blessing of God almighty,
the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit,
be among you and remain with you always.
Amen.

Go into God's world in peace to love and serve the Lord
In the name of Christ. Amen.

