

1. **WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS.**

2. **LITURGY: bringing in the Kingdom (from Hope for the Future prayers)**

Creator God

In bright light and dull darkness

In the energy of each day and the rest that comes with night

ALL: We remember the goodness of God

In the heavens high above our heads

In waters that run deep around the world

ALL: We remember the goodness of God

In solid land and flowing seas

In vivid flowers and fruit laden-trees

ALL: We remember the goodness of God

In the rising and setting of the sun

and the cycles of the seasons

In the patterns of the shining stars

ALL: We remember the goodness of God

In oceans teeming with fish

In skies filled with birds

ALL: We remember the goodness of God

In a world filled with animal life

And in ourselves as human beings

ALL: We remember the goodness of God

And God looked and saw all that he had made, and indeed it was very, very good.

In rest and reflection, in wonder and worship

ALL: We remember the goodness of God.

Amen

The world around us is full of beauty

ALL We praise your name O God.

For the gift of life on earth

ALL We praise your name O God.

Open our eyes to see your artistry

ALL Your image in all that you have made.

Where our praise is short or silent

ALL All creation sings out with joy.

Here we join creation's song

ALL We praise your name O God

3. STUDYING Climate Justice: Hope for the Future

www.hfff.org.uk

Jo Musker-Sherwood, Director of Hope for the Future, will be with us. At this point she will tell us about Hope for the Future – its origins and vision, how Jo became involved, her team, how they work and what they have managed to do.

4. BIBLE STUDY, HOPE: Revelation 22 v 1-5

Then the angel showed me the river of the water of life, bright as crystal, flowing from the throne of God and of the Lamb through the middle of the street of the city. On either side of the river is the tree of life with its twelve kinds of fruit, producing its fruit each month; and the leaves of the tree are for the healing of the nations. Nothing accursed will be found there any more. But the throne of God and of the Lamb will be in it, and his servants will worship him; they will see his face, and his name will be on their foreheads. And there will be no more night; they need no light of lamp or sun, for the Lord God will be their light, and they will reign forever and ever.

5. SILENT PRAYER AND REFLECTION

Prayers

Creator God, fill us with your love for the creation, for the natural world around us, for the earth from which we come and to which we will return. Awake in us energy to work for your world; let us never fall into complacency, ignorance or being overwhelmed by the task before us. Help us to restore, to remake, to renew in Jesus' name. **Amen.**

God of yesterday, we knew you then: your promises; your words; your walking among us. But yesterday is gone. And so, today, we are in need of change. Change us. Help us to see life now, not through yesterday's stories, but through today's. **Amen.**

God of endings, what we thought would not end has ended. And we find ourselves here wondering where we are and how we got here and where to go from here. Be with us, here, at the end. Help us place our feet on this ground, help us lick our wounds, help us look up and around. Help us believe the story of today. Because you know all about the endings of today. And you are not afraid. **Amen.**

Padraig O'Tuama (2017) Daily prayer with the Corrymeela Community

Loving God, we give thanks for the unseen powers of goodness that surround us; for all the ways in which your Word comes to us; for continual leading into the right way, even when we do not know that we are being led. We are always more ready to speak than to listen; more ready to doubt and fear than to rest in quiet confidence. Help us always to be open to the message that may come in strange and unexpected ways and draw us nearer to the Risen Christ. We pray in His name. **Amen.**

R. Chapman, Stations of the Resurrection, p.186.

Reflections

The estimates for global warming in this century range from 1.8°C to 4°C. That is mainly because the total warming will depend on the technological, economic and lifestyle choices we all make. World leaders accept that climate change is a threat – the

international debate is about how much action each country should take, and how soon.

RSPB leaflet, *Climate change and birds*, July 2009

Christian prayer arises from the belief that God's Kingdom comes on earth as individuals do his will through faith in Christ.

N. Ward, Open to Prayer, p. 16.

Christian life is lived in relationship with God through Jesus Christ ... Nothing - says St Paul - can separate us from the love of God. But this isn't an excuse for doing what we like, knowing we can get away with it. Once we know that God is 'for us', we open up to the gift that God wants to give us - which is a share in his own love and freedom and mercy. We breathe with his breath - that's part of what it means to say that we receive God's 'Spirit', which makes us live like Jesus 'in tune' with God. If we have really taken the message in, we shall live lives of selfless generosity, always asking how the gifts given us - material or imaginative or spiritual or whatever - can be shared in a way that brings other people more fully alive. And we shall be able to trust the generosity of others and be free to receive what they have to give us. Generosity, gratitude, confidence that when we fail we are still loved - all of this focused on Jesus' life and death and resurrection. That's where we start in the lifelong job of being a Christian.

© Rowan Williams (2011).

6. ACTION: HOPE FOR THE FUTURE

Jo Musker-Sherwood will now talk about what Hope For The Future actually involves and how we could participate. Here is a short extract that Jo prepared for us:

“Over the past three years Hope for the Future has been working to equip communities, campaigners and groups across the country to communicate the urgency of climate change with their local politicians. Our ground breaking research has enabled us to develop an approach to effectively engage local politicians which has proved transformative. Our approaches hinge on three key principles:

1. Climate change is not an easy issue to talk about. It is often perceived as distant, overwhelming and confusing.
Communicating climate change with politicians requires us

to understand the barriers to action and respect the difficulties in engagement.

2. Combating climate change requires the response of politicians from across the political spectrum. Therefore the language we use to describe both climate change and its solutions must resonate with people of many varying political persuasions. **Ultimately, our language must speak to the values of those we seek to engage.**
3. Effective climate campaigning must be rooted in strong relationships. **It is only through building the trust of those with whom we disagree that we are able to have the kind of robust conversations that would not otherwise have been possible,** leading to transformed attitudes and tangible action. Our vision is to see politicians of all political persuasions joining together with each other and communities across the UK to take decisive action on climate change.
7. **CLOSING PRAYER together:** Canticle of St Francis of Assisi.
 1. Most High, all-powerful, good Lord, to you be praise, glory, honour and all blessing
 2. Only to you, Most High, do they belong, and no one is worthy to call upon Your Name.
 3. May you be praised my Lord, with all your creatures, especially Brother Sun, through whom you lighten the day for us. He is beautiful and radiant with great splendour, he signifies you, O Most High
 4. Be praised my Lord, for Sister Moon and the stars, Clear and precious and lovely, they are formed in heaven.
 5. Be praised my Lord, for Brother Wind, and by air and clouds, clear skies and all weathers, by which you give sustenance to all your creatures.
 6. Be praised my Lord, for Sister Water, So useful, humble, precious and pure.
 7. Be praised my Lord for Brother Fire, by whom the night is illumined for us, he is beautiful and cheerful, full of power and strength.
 8. Be praised my Lord for Sister, our Mother Earth, who sustains

and governs us, and produces diverse fruits and coloured flowers and grass.

9. Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good, for his mercy endures for ever. *Psalm 136 v2*
10. Let everything that has breath praise the Lord. Alleluia!
Psalm 150 v.6

Hope for the Future's Partners include:

Christian Aid has been campaigning for strong action to tackle climate change for a number of years, and you can find out more on our website www.christianaid.org.uk/climate

The Climate Coalition is formed of over 100 member organisations and more than 15 million people across the UK. They run a campaign called For the Love Of, where groups and individuals come together to remember the things they love that will be affected by climate change
<https://www.theclimatecoalition.org/>

Climate Stewards is a Christian carbon offsetting charity and invites individuals, churches, charities and businesses to '*reduce what you can and offset what you can't*'. Many of us are already taking steps to reduce our carbon footprints. However, we all need to heat our homes, travel and eat, and as a result will generate unavoidable carbon emissions. By providing a means to do this, we believe people are empowered to start taking control of their carbon footprint, and to feel that they are part of the solution as well as the problem. Our partners choose to offset their carbon emissions for various reasons, but many organisations see it as reflection of their desire to be good stewards of the environment, as well as to meet CSR responsibilities or work towards becoming carbon neutral. Through our web-based calculator, organisations and individuals can offset any combination of flights, car and train travel, heat and power and other carbon emissions. www.climatestewards.org

Green Christian believe in a gospel for all creation. We are a community of ordinary Christians who seek to: let loose hope in this damaged, exploited and unjust world; pioneer practical

discipleship in shared prayer, struggle and action; empower agents of change in churches and the green movement. We walk alongside those of faith and no faith. www.greenchristian.org.uk/

The Iona Community is a dispersed Christian ecumenical community working for peace and social justice, rebuilding of community and the renewal of worship. <https://iona.org.uk/>

Pray and Fast for the Climate is a movement of Christians praying and fasting on the 1st of each month for a meaningful and just global climate agreement at the UN climate talks. We started off in the UK, but now are world wide – recently the Anglican Communion Bishops' statement on the environment suggested that all Anglicans worldwide pray and fast on the 1st of the month! <https://prayandfastfortheclimate.org.uk/>

A Rocha UK is a Christian charity working for the protection and restoration of the natural world, both as a response to the biblical mandate to care for the earth, and as a demonstration of the Christian hope for God's world. www.arocha.org.uk

USPG (United Society Partners in the Gospel) is a Christian charity working in partnership with Anglican churches around the world. Together, we work alongside local communities to improve health, put children in school, tackle discrimination, nurture leaders, give a voice to women, and much more www.uspg.org.uk/