

A service engaging the Word, science & technology¹

Sentence: Bless the LORD, O my soul!
All that is within me, bless God's holy name.
For God knows how we are made,
and remembers that we are dust.
Bless the LORD, all God's works, in each and every place.
Bless the LORD, O my soul. *from Psalm 103*

Opening prayer: Collect for purity

First reading: Mining / geology – Job 28

Reflection, prayer

Song Together in Song 186 (*tune – Once in Royal David's City*)
Stars and planets flung in orbit,
galaxies that swirl through space,
powers hid within the atom,
cells that form an infant's face:
these, O God, in silence praise you;
by your wisdom they are made.
Life in wondrous, wild profusion,
seed and fruit, each flower and tree,
beast and fish and swarming insect,
soaring bird, rejoicing, free:
these, your creatures, join in chorus,
praising you in wordless song.
Humankind, earth's deepest mystery,
born of dust but touched by grace,
torn apart by tongue and colour,
yet a single, striving race:
we, in whom you trace your image,
add our words to nature's song.
Christ, the Word before creation
as creation's final goal,
once you came for earth's redemption;
by your Spirit make earth whole:
then, O God, the new creation
will your praise for ever sing.

Herman Steumpfle 1923 –

Second reading: (G)oddities – Joshua 10.12-13; 2 Kings 2.19-21; 2 Kings 6.1

Reflection, prayer



See also the paper in this folder offering a “Case Study on the design of a service”



Psalm 8 (*read together by alternate verses*):

- 1 O Lord our Governor:
how glorious is your name in all the earth!
- 2 **Your majesty above the heavens is yet recounted:
by the mouths of babes and sucklings.**
- 3 You have founded a strong defence against your adversaries:
to quell the enemy and the avenger.
- 4 **When I consider your heavens, the work of your fingers:
the moon and the stars which you have set in order,**
- 5 What are we, that you should be mindful of us:
what are we, that you should care for us?
- 6 **Yet you have made us little less than gods:
and have crowned us with glory and honour.**
- 7 You have given us dominion over your handiwork:
and have put all things in subjection beneath our feet,
- 8 **All sheep and oxen:
and all the creatures of the field,**
- 9 The birds of the air and the fish of the sea:
and everything that moves in the pathways of the great waters.
- 10 **O Lord our Governor:
how glorious is your name in all the earth!**

Third reading: Creation's dying and rising - 2 Peter 3:4ff

Reflection, prayer

Song: Together in Song 187

1. Let all creation dance in energies sublime,
as order turns with chance, unfolding space and time,
for nature's art in glory grows,
and newly shows God's mind and heart.
2. God's breath each force unfurls, igniting from a spark
expanding starry swirls, with whirlpools dense and dark.
Though moon and sun seem mindless things,
each orbit sings: 'Your will be done.'
3. Our own amazing earth, with sunlight, cloud and storms
and life's abundant growth in lovely shapes and forms,
is made for praise, a fragile whole,
and from its soul heaven's music plays.
4. Lift heart and soul and voice: in Christ all praises meet
and nature shall rejoice as all is made complete.
In hope be strong, all life befriend
and kindly tend creation's song.

Brian Arthur Wren 1936, based on Psalm 148



Fourth reading: Christ's deeds of power - Mark 4.35 – 5.43

Reflection

Song: Together in Song 146

1. God, who made the earth, the air, the sky, the sea,
who gave the light its birth, God cares for me.
2. God, who made the grass, the flower, the fruit, the tree,
the day and night to pass, will care for me.
3. God who made the sun, the moon, the stars, is he
who, when life's clouds come on, still cares for me.
4. God, who sent his Son to die on Calvary,
has shown how lovingly who cares for me.

Sarah Betts Rhodes, 1829-1904 alt.

Intercessions, *concluding with the Lord's Prayer*

Blessing / dismissal



Appendix 1

Dramatised Readings for this Service

First reading (Mining and geology) - Job 28

- V1 Surely there is a mine for silver, and a place for gold to be refined. Iron is taken out of the earth, and copper is smelted from ore. Miners put an end to darkness, and search out to the farthest bound the ore in gloom and deep darkness. They open shafts in a valley away from human habitation; they are forgotten by travelers, they sway suspended, remote from people.
- V2 As for the earth, out of it comes bread; but underneath it is turned up as by fire. Its stones are the place of sapphires, and its dust contains gold.
- V3 They put their hand to the flinty rock, and overturn mountains by the roots. They cut out channels in the rocks, and their eyes see every precious thing. The sources of the rivers they probe; hidden things they bring to light.
- ALL (whispered)**
But - where shall wisdom be found? ...
- V2 It cannot be gotten for gold; silver cannot be weighed out as its price or in precious onyx or sapphire. No mention shall be made of coral or of crystal; the price of wisdom is above pearls. The chrysolite of Ethiopia cannot compare with it, nor can it be valued in pure gold.
- ALL (loudly)**
Where then does wisdom come from? ...
- V2 God understands the way to it, and knows its place ...
- V3 'Truly, the fear of the Lord, that is wisdom;
and to depart from evil is understanding.'

Second reading - (G)oddities

- V1 **Joshua 10:12-13**
When the LORD gave the Amorites over to the Israelites, Joshua spoke to the LORD and said, "Sun, stand still at Gibeon, and Moon, in the valley of Aijalon." And the sun stood still, and the moon stopped, until the nation took vengeance on their enemies. Is this not written in the Book of Jashar? The sun stopped in midheaven, and did not hurry to set for about a whole day.
- V2 **2 Kings 2:19-21**
The people of the city said to Elisha, "The location of this city is good, but the water is bad, and the land unfruitful." He said, "Bring me a new bowl, and put salt in it." So they brought it to him. Then he went to the spring and threw the salt into it, and said, "Thus says the LORD, I have made this water wholesome; from now on neither death nor miscarriage shall come from it." So the water has been wholesome to this day, according to the word that Elisha spoke.
- V3 **2 Kings 6:1**
As one man was felling a log, his axe head fell into the water. He cried out, "Alas, master! It was borrowed." Then the man of God said, "Where did it fall?" When he showed him the place, he cut off a stick, threw it in, and made the iron float. "Pick it up." He reached out his hand and took it.



Third reading - *Creation's dying and rising: 2 Peter 3:4ff*

- V1 By the word of God heavens existed long ago, and an earth was formed out of water and by means of water, through which the world of that time was deluged with water and perished. But by the same word the present heavens and earth have been reserved for fire, being kept until the day of judgment and destruction of the godless.
- V2 But do not ignore this one fact, beloved, that with the Lord one day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years are like one day. The Lord is not slow about his promise, as some think of slowness, but is patient with you, not wanting any to perish, but all to come to repentance.
- V&2 But the day of the Lord will come like a thief, and the heavens will pass away with a loud noise, the elements be dissolved with fire, and the earth and everything done on it will be disclosed.
- V3 Since all these things are to be dissolved in this way, what sort of persons ought you to be in leading lives of holiness and godliness, waiting for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be set ablaze and dissolved, and the elements will melt with fire?
- V1&2 But, in accordance with his promise, we wait for new heavens and a new earth, where righteousness is at home.
- V3 Therefore, beloved, while you are waiting for these things, strive to be found by him at peace, without spot or blemish; and regard the patience of our Lord as salvation.



Fourth reading - Christ's deeds of power: Mark 4:35 - 5.43

- V1 They took Jesus with them in the boat, just as he was. Other boats were with him. A great wind storm arose, and the waves beat into the boat, so that the boat was already being swamped. But he was in the stern, asleep on the cushion; and they woke him up and said to him, "Teacher, do you not care that we are perishing?"
- V2 He woke up and rebuked the wind, and said to the sea, "Peace! Be still!" Then the wind ceased, and there was a dead calm. He said to them, "Why are you afraid? Have you still no faith?" And they were filled with great awe and said to one another,
- V1&2 "Who then is this, that even the wind and the sea obey him?"
- V1 They came to the other side of the sea, to the country of the Gerasenes. When he had stepped out of the boat, immediately a man with an unclean spirit met him. He lived in the cemetery; and no one could restrain him, even with a chain ...
- V2 Jesus asked, "What is your name?"
- V3 "My name is Legion; for we are many."
- V1 He begged Jesus earnestly not to send them out of the country.
- V2 Now on the hillside a great herd of swine was feeding; and the unclean spirits begged him, "Send us into the swine; let us enter them." So he gave them permission. The unclean spirits came out and entered the swine; and the herd, numbering about two thousand, rushed down the steep bank into the sea, and were drowned in the sea ...
- V1 Jesus crossed again in the boat to the other side, and a great crowd gathered around him.
- V2 A leader of the synagogue named Jairus came, fell at his feet and begged him repeatedly, "My little daughter is at the point of death. Come and lay your hands on her, so that she may be made well, and live." So he went with him, and a large crowd followed and pressed in on him.
- V3 Now a woman had been suffering from hemorrhages for twelve years. She had endured much under many physicians, and spent all she had; and she was no better, but rather grew worse. She had heard about Jesus, and came up behind him in the crowd and touched his cloak, for she said, "If I but touch his clothes, I will be made well."
- V1&2 Immediately her hemorrhage stopped; and she felt in her body that she was healed of her disease ...
- V3 While he was still speaking, people came from the leader's house to say, "Your daughter is dead. Why trouble the teacher any further?" Overhearing them, Jesus said to Jairus, "Do not fear, only believe." ...
- V1 When they came to the house he took the child's father and mother and those who were with him, and went in where the child was. He took her by the hand and said to her, "Talitha cum," which means, "Little girl, get up!"
- V3 And immediately the girl got up and began to walk about (she was twelve years of age). At this they were overcome with amazement. He strictly ordered them that no one should know this, and told them to give her something to eat.



