

QUEENSFERRY PARISH CHURCH

MIDWEEK SERVICES

SEPTEMBER

CREATION AND HARVEST

Week 3 – The Struggle to Change

Leader: If I ascend to heaven you are there, O
God.
And if I make my bed in hell, still you are
with me.

Opening responses

The way we live

AFFECTS OUR SISTERS AND OUR BROTHERS

The way we live

AFFECTS OUR PARENTS AND OUR CHILDREN

The way we live

AFFECTS OUR FRIENDS AND TOTAL STRANGERS

The way we live

AFFECTS OUR STREET AND OUR COUNTRY

The way we live

**AFFECTS FORESTS AND MOUNTAINS AND RIVERS AND
OCEANS**

The way we live

AFFECTS PLANTS AND ANIMALS STARS AND PLANETS

We can choose and change the way we live

GOD HELP US TO GET THINGS RIGHT

I found this hymn in “A Heart for Creation.” Written by Anna Briggs, it won a hymn-writing competition in 2006. It is entitled “Hymn for the Green Church”

Green was the earth when you dreamed it and made it,
mountains so high and the waters below;
creatures so varied, of fur, fin and feather
finding their home in the sun, wind or snow.
Made man and woman to show forth your pleasure,
promised their shelter, their freedom, their food;
charged them to cherish your earth and its treasure,
lit night and day, then you saw it was good.

Gold was the hope when we shared in your making,
learned what could grow from the treasures we find,
mined from the ground, from the water and forest,
honed in the test-tube, the circuit, the mind;
endless our hunger for greater possessions,
reckless our use of each finite resource;
grey now the skies as we live our obsessions,
wasting your gifts, and with little remorse.

Red is your promise of justice and healing,
costing you all, for our sakes, for all life;
open our hearts to your grace, now revealing
new ways to work and move, dream, share and thrive.

Let us rejoice in your covenant rainbow,
Trust as we trusted you through the great flood.
Praise your abundance, forgiveness and wisdom,
Cherish your gifts, for we know they are good.

Read: Psalm 18

Prayer

God of creating love, we give thanks for this beautiful world you have created. In your generosity you have lent it to us to care for it and nurture it. Thank you for that constant generosity.

Lord God, we give thanks for all your people with all our differences. We celebrate that diversity – different colours, different nationalities with different cultures, different lifestyles. Thank you for creating us in such variety.

God of purpose, you knew your plan for the world but somehow things have gone wrong. Parts of creation have been spoiled and people have become possessive and greedy. We know we have gone badly wrong.

Forgiving God, you set us a challenge to care for your world but sadly we have failed in so many ways. We have abused your world. We know we have done wrong and we come before you asking your forgiveness.

Challenge us to think again, Lord, and to look beyond our own wants and needs. Challenge us to be strong and to act in your name.

Hear us now as we bring these prayers to you and hear us as we pray now in Jesus' own words:

OUR FATHER

Read: Matthew 13 verses 31 – 33

Reflection – keep to a maximum of 5 – 7 minutes.

Last week's theme was about the way we have spoiled the world's resources. This week could be an opportunity to reflect on the ways in which we are learning to care for God's creation. What steps have you taken to reduce waste or to act in a more eco-friendly way?

This part of the service might involve music or poetry; it might involve the use of "props" or something else visual; it might involve silence.

Prayer

This a time for prayers for the world, for the communities in which we live; for the Church and in particular for tentative steps we are making to reopen our buildings; for those who are alone and who miss the regular rhythm of Church life; for those known to us to be in particular need of our prayers; for ourselves.

CLOSING RESPONSES

Bless, O God,

OUR DESIRE TO LIVE SUSTAINABLY

Bless, O God,

OUR HOPE FOR ALL TO SEE CREATION'S BEAUTY

Bless, O God,

THE SMALL THINGS WE DO FOR YOUR WORLD

Bless around us, O God,

THOSE WHO WORK TO BENEFIT YOUR GOOD EARTH

Bless around us, O God,

**THOSE WHO FIND WAYS TO LIVE IN HARMONY WITH
CREATION**

Bless us, O God,

**THAT WE MAY BE WHOLE AND LIVE AS YOU CREATED
US TO BE.**

AMEN.

