

Service for the Countryside



Welcome

Hymn

(1) I heard the voice of Jesus say,
'Come unto me and rest,
Lay down, thou weary one, lay down the living water, thirsty one;
Thy head upon my breast':
I came to Jesus as I was, So weary, worn and sad,
I found in him a resting-place, And he has made me glad.

(2) I heard the voice of Jesus say,
'Behold and freely give,
stoop down and drink and live':
I came to Jesus and I drank
of that life-giving stream;
my thirst was quenched, my soul
revived,
And now I live in him.

(3) I heard the voice of Jesus say,
'I am this dark world's light;
Look unto me, thy morn shall rise,
And all thy day be bright':
I looked to Jesus and I found
In him my star, my sun;
And in that light of life I'll walk Till travelling days are done.

A Song of New Creation

I will make a way in the wilderness, and rivers in the desert.

1'I am the Lord, your Holy One, ♦
the Creator of Israel, your King.'

2Thus says the Lord, who makes a way in the sea, ♦
a path in the mighty waters,

3'Remember not the former things, ♦ nor consider the things of old.

4'Behold, I am doing a new thing; ♦
now it springs forth, do you not perceive it?

5'I will make a way in the wilderness
and rivers in the desert, ♦
to give drink to my chosen people,

6'The people whom I formed for myself, ♦
that they might declare my praise.'

Isaiah 43.15, 16, 18, 19, 20c, 21

**Glory to the Father and to the Son
and to the Holy Spirit;
as it was in the beginning is now
and shall be for ever. Amen.**

I will make a way in the wilderness, and rivers in the desert.

The Collect

Almighty God, whose will it is that the earth and the sea should bear fruit in due season: bless the labours of those who work on land and sea, grant us a good harvest and the grace always to rejoice in your fatherly care; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

Amen.

The Word of God

Choir

First Lesson - *Exodus 16:2-15*

An act of thanksgiving to God for all His mercies

As the Minister concludes each section with the words "We praise God",

*all the people reply: **We thank him***

Let us thank God for all his mercies.

For the order and constancy of nature, For the beauty and bounty of the world,

For the day and night, summer and winter, seed time and harvest,

For the diverse gifts of splendour which each season brings,

We praise God.

We thank him

For the men and women who work on our farms,

For those who shape the farmers tools and build his machines,

For all who supply our food and sustain our lives,

We praise God.

We thank him

For our homes and the joys of home,

For our friends and all occasions of fellowship,

For all the gracious ministries of human affection,

We praise God.

We thank him

For communion with God, who created us

and holds us ever within the embrace of his love,

For the life, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ,

who shows us who God is, sets us free, and makes us one,

For the Holy Spirit, who touches our hearts to love and obedience,

We praise God.
We thank him

The Word of God Second Lesson - Matthew 6.25-33

Address

Choir

Intercession

Lord of life, one of your rich blessings to mankind is that we may cooperate with you in your provision, and so now, Father,

We sow on earth the seeds of our prayers.

Respond from the heavens and give life to our hopes.

We pray for your Church:

For those sowing the seeds of faith,
for those caring for your flock,
for those building up skills and understanding,
for those discerning new ways for our changing world
and for those sent to minister in new situations.

We sow on earth the seeds of our prayers.

Respond from the heavens and give life to our hopes.

We pray for your world:

Let love disturb the rich that they may satisfy the poor,
let understanding connect the producer and the consumer,
let justice mediate between the powerful and powerless,
let peace govern the relations between nations and let truth govern the words of their leaders.

We sow on earth the seeds of our prayers.

Respond from the heavens and give life to our hopes.

We pray for those in need:

Heal the sick,
comfort the bereaved, strengthen the fearful,
befriend the lonely, guide the perplexed
and give insight to those who think they have no needs.

We sow on earth the seeds of our prayers.

Respond from the heavens and give life to our hopes.

Especially today we pray for the farming community:

For subsistence farmers in the third world, that they may feed their families. For commercial farmers seeking to balance the demands of making a profit in difficult times and caring for the land and livestock, that they may also find time and energy for their own needs and the needs of their families.

For the distressed, the depressed and the defeated,
that they might find the help they need.

For those who have the energy, insight and expertise
to succeed despite the problems,
that they may shine out as a beacon of hope.

We sow on earth the seeds of our prayers.

Respond from the heavens and give life to our hopes.

In Jesus' name.

Amen.

Hymn

Praise God from whom all blessings flow,
Praise him, all creatures here below, Praise him above, ye heav'nly host, Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost.

The Blessing

May God the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who is the source of all goodness and growth, pour his blessing upon all things created, and upon you

his children, that you may use them to his glory and the welfare of all peoples; and the blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you and remain with you always.

Amen.

The Dismissal

Let us now leave this place of worship, built to the glory of God; Let us go out into the glory of God's creation.

Let us seek for the wisdom to understand the rhythm of life, Our own rhythms and the rhythm of the earth.

May God's blessing go with us.

Amen.

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