**Creation Sunday**

**7th February 2021**

Introduction & welcome: *Rev Trish*

Almighty and everlasting God, you made the universe with all its marvellous order, its atoms, worlds, and galaxies, and the infinite complexity of living creatures: Grant that, as we probe the mysteries of your creation, we may come to know you more truly, and more surely fulfill our role in your eternal purpose; in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**.

*Hymn: O Lord my God (How great thou art) (mute!)*

Gathering: *Cerys Bennett*

Day and night, dark and light**,**

**the glory of God shines out.**

Sunshine and rain, joy and pain,

**the love of God breaks through.**

Glistening evergreens brave the winter chill,

bare branches stir in longing for spring,

**Creation proclaims the care and provision of God.**

Mountain peaks, rolling hills, craggy rocks, crashing seas, rushing rivers, surging streams, marshlands, peat bogs, heaths and moors, fields and downs, hamlets, villages, towns and cities

and all who live there, call with one voice:

**God made us and we are in God’s good and generous hand.**

**Great is the Lord and worthy of praise. Amen.**

A prayer of confession: *Jill Bottomley*

Creator God, you formed us from the dust of the earth and placed us in a garden. Remind us of our place as your creatures at home in your creation. Forgive us when we forget our connection to the earth, and our dependence upon the goodness of your world.

Lord, have mercy. **Lord, have mercy.**

Our Saviour Christ, you were born into this world, and made your earthly home in Nazareth. Help us to know and love the people and places where you have set us. Forgive us when we fail to care for our homes, our communities, and your creation.

Christ, have mercy. **Christ, have mercy.**

Spirit of God, you desire to grow in us your fruit of love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. Forgive us when our roots are so shallow that our lives fail to bear fruit. Enable us to find our home in you, and in the places to which you call us.

Lord, have mercy. **Lord, have mercy.**

*Silence*

Hear the words of grace ‘Your sins are forgiven.’

**Thanks be to God. Amen.**

Collect:*John Delieu*

Almighty God, give us reverence for all creation and respect for every person, that we may mirror your likeness in Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

Old Testament reading*: Ferelith Smith*

*Proverbs 8:22-31*

The Lord created me at the beginning of his work, the first of his acts of long ago. Ages ago I was set up, at the first, before the beginning of the earth. When there were no depths I was brought forth, when there were no springs abounding with water. Before the mountains had been shaped, before the hills, I was brought forth— when he had not yet made earth and fields, or the world’s first bits of soil. When he established the heavens, I was there, when he drew a circle on the face of the deep, when he made firm the skies above, when he established the fountains of the deep, when he assigned to the sea its limit, so that the waters might not transgress his command, when he marked out the foundations of the earth, then I was beside him, like a master worker; and I was daily his delight, rejoicing before him always, rejoicing in his inhabited world and delighting in the human race.

This is the word of the Lord: **Thanks be to God**

Prayer of adoration: *Alan Tiltman*

All of creation beckons us to worship you. The grandeur of the universe, echoes your glory! Who can match your brilliance and authority? You set boundaries for the ocean, you raise majestic mountains to touch the sky. Sunrise and sunset happens on your watch

Holy Holy, Holy**; Holy Lord – The Earth is yours**

Who is humankind that you are mindful of us, that you would entrust us with all you’ve made? Who are the peoples of the earth that we get to bear your image?

Holy Holy, Holy; **Holy Lord – The Earth is yours**

Who am I that you even notice me? Eternal God -beyond time and space, who am I that you lean in when I draw near? Wind and sea obey at your command, yet you invite me to follow you with a whisper.

Holy God – you know my hidden sin, yet you offer me new mercies every morning.

Holy Holy, Holy; **Holy Lord – The Earth is yours. Amen.**

Gospel:  *Phil Davies*

*John 1: 1 -14*

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it. There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world. He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God. And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father’s only son, full of grace and truth.

This is the word of the Lord: **Thanks be to God**

Prayers of intercession**:** *Mark Pryce*

We bring our cares and concerns, our prayers for the world, and for all God’s people before God.

You have created the universe by your eternal Word, and have blessed humankind in making us stewards of the earth. We pray for your world, that we may share and conserve its resources, and live in reverence for the creation and in harmony with one another.

Father, Lord of creation, **in your mercy, hear us.**

You have given the human race a rich land, a land of streams and springs, wheat and barley, vines and oil and honey. We have made by sin a world of suffering and sorrow. We pray for those who bear the weight of affliction, that they may come to share the life of wholeness and plenty.

Father, Lord of creation, **in your mercy, hear us.**

In Christ you call us to a new way of life, loving our neighbours before ourselves. Help us to treat with care and respect the world as it is, as we live in hope and anticipation of the world as it will be when your kingdom comes and your will is done.

Father, Lord of creation, **in your mercy, hear us.**

Thank you for those, living and departed, who have shown a true respect for your creation …

Help us to follow in their footsteps, until, with them, we see you face to face, where all is made new in Christ our Lord. **Amen**

We pray together as Jesus taught us, **Our Father…**

The Peace: *Rev Phil*

The peace of the Lord be always with you;

**And also with you**

Tangnefedd yr Arglwydd a fo gyda chwi bob amser

**A hefyd gyda thi**

*Hymn: Immortal, invisible God only wise (mute!)*

Go in the light and peace of Christ to love and serve the Lord.

**Thanks be to God. Amen**