***CREATION SUNDAY SERVICE ALL AGES***

**Leader Introduction**

**Leader Gathering responses**

Leader: Mother and Father of all life, God-with-us, we gather:

**All TO BEGIN AGAIN OUR STEWARDSHIP OF YOUR CREATION.**

Leader Feed us:

**All WITH KNOWLEDGE AND UNDERSTANDING.**

Leader: Awaken within our hearts:

**All A PASSION FOR SUSTAINABLE LIVING.**

Leader: Enable us:

**All TO TAKE LIGHTER FOOTSTEPS ON YOUR GOOD EARTH.**

Leader Help us:

**All TO FIND WAYS OF LIVING MORE SIMPLY.**

**Prayer to be said together**

**Strengthen us, Mother God**

**Mothering God, we come to worship**

**within your renewing love.**

**So strengthen and encourage us,**

**that we see the next steps for action,**

**and have the courage to take them.**

**For your love’s sake.**

**Amen**

**Music played – The Lord’s My Shepherd I’ll not want = Stuart Townend**

***Confession - Free us for action***

**Voice 1**

Loving God, in Jesus you stepped up to the line, bit the bullet, owned the problem.

Walk beside us as we seek to accept the evidence that the earth is under threat.

Share our pain for the way we have avoided the truth and ignored the signs.

**All AND FREE US FROM THE GUILT THAT BINDS US.**

**Voice 2**

Loving God, in Jesus you laid yourself open, stuck your neck out,

and made yourself vulnerable to the whims of earthly rulers.

Walk beside us as we risk the consequences of self-examination.

Share our pain for what has been done in self-seeking and blindness.

**All AND FREE US FROM THE GUILT THAT BINDS US.**

**Voice 3**

Loving God, in Jesus you faced the music,

carried the can, took the blame.

Walk beside us as we seek to accept our part in damaging the earth.

Share our pain for what has been done in foolishness and ignorance.

**All AND FREE US FROM THE GUILT THAT BINDS US.**

**Voice 1**

Loving God, in Jesus you grasped the nettle, picked up the shovel,

became involved. Walk beside us as we struggle to change our lives.

Share our pain for what has not been done through fear and weakness.

**All AND FREE US FROM THE GUILT THAT BINDS US.**

**Leader Absolution**

**Played music = We will meet (John Bell)**

***A meditative look at climate change, the sacredness of all life and human responsibility by Joy Mead -*** [***www.ionabooks.com***](http://www.ionabooks.com)

***(This could be said by walking round a Churchyard or area specific to your Church or village – using different voices)= similar to Stations of the Cross but reflecting on Nature.***

**Be gentle as you walk on the good earth, our home and life giver.**

**Touch with kindness all that has being and shares with you**

**this sacred space.**

**Smell the subtle scent of bluebells in the spring; hear the summer wind**

**in the grass, feel it light on your back; touch the trees, sense their nearness.**

**Know the fragility of wondrous plants. Listen with care to the blackbird’s song,**

**the lark’s morning joy and the cuckoo’s haunting call.**

**Hold in your heart these sounds of life. Let the precious wetness**

**of falling rain baptise you. Breathe deeply, fill your lungs with the air that keeps you alive; understand the need to sustain its breathability.**

**Be still and connect in the silence what you are with what you value.**

**Never overvalue your own significance nor undervalue it. Know yourself**

**one small, vulnerable part. Feel your feet on the earth and know the joy of your place in the natural world.**

**Know our human need for beauty. We fall in love with all life in beautiful places. Rediscover your sense of wonder and share it with others – it might yet be our salvation. Give attention to life’s littleness – contemplate what it means to honour the small things – the seeds and sunlight – that sustain our wider being.**

**Learn to simply be and live wholly where you are, and who you are and who you are with. You, you’re another me; me … I’m another you.**

**We’re neither subject nor object. We’re one with each other and the world.**

**On this sense of equality our survival may depend.**

**Love life as you live it. Don’t try to outdo it. Let beauty break through your frantic need to do. We’re the between people, the people on the edge of catastrophe. Our obsessive doing may be our destruction. But we have, it seems, one last chance to save ourselves and honour our beautiful earth.**

**Look at your own hands, small but with infinite possibilities. Big problems need small solutions. Put out your hand to those who have gone. Their wisdom and faithfulness stays with us. Be prophetic and creative; reach out to those who are to come with love in your heart.**

**Listen, feel, touch and smell; think and imagine – these are sacred acts.**

**Real life is what it is not what you might be told it is.**

**Listen to the earth and life as you meet it. Watch and never turn away.**

**Discern what is needful. Seek to overcome the greedy child who is inside each one of us and would take to itself what belongs to all.**

**We can no longer sleep unaware nor be silent while others sleep. May the sound of our own voices disturb our foolish slumber.**

**Awake and see! Awake and tell what you see! Awake and seek**

**a sustainable and fairer future for all life on earth.**

**Short Talk – Minister/Priest/Lay person: topic Climate Crisis/ Nature Connection**

**Prayers – led by three young people – God of Compassion**

**Response – Hear our Sorrow and heal us**

*Leader:* God of history and hope,

we offer to your forgiving love the sins of our common past:

*A:* The arrogance that took another’s land.

*B:* The greed which plundered resources.

*C* The national pride which diminished others.

*Silence to reflect*

*Leader:* O God of compassion,

***ALL:* HEAR OUR SORROW AND HEAL US.**

*Leader:* God of power and weakness,

we offer to your forgiving love our abuse of both our power and our weakness:

*B:* The use of military might to force our will on others.

*C:* The unbalanced sharing of the earth’s resources.

*A:* The weaknesses that prevent us insisting on justice.

*Silence to reflect*

*Leader:* O God of compassion,

***ALL:* HEAR OUR SORROW AND HEAL US.**

*Leader:* God of sacrifice and gift, we offer to your forgiving love the selfish materialism of our common life:

*A:* The economic system demanding spending and debt to sustain it.

*B:* The wasteful use of the gifts of your creation.

*C:* The desire for more that is never satisfied.

*Silence to reflect*

*Leader:* O God of compassion,

***ALL:* HEAR OUR SORROW AND HEAL US.**

*Leader:* God of heaven and earth,

we offer to your forgiving love the damage we are doing to this planet:

*B:* The atmospheric changes caused by fossil fuels and chemical fumes.

*C:* The melting ice of sea and glacier that threatens flood and desert.

*A:* The disappearing species lost through climate change.

*Silence in which to offer our personal struggle …*

*Leader:* O God of compassion,

***ALL:* HEAR OUR SORROW AND HEAL US.**

*Leader:* The Living God offers us the gifts

of love and forgiveness,

renews our hope and

inspires our vision.

***ALL:* THANKS BE TO GOD. AMEN**

**Listen to music – Thy Kingdom Come (tune Tell out my soul)**

**Final Prayer and Blessing**

Creator of all, Saviour of all, Spirit in all, One God in perfect community,

**All Stay with us now.**

Leader Where there is apathy,

**All Kindle the flame of your love.**

Leader Where there is deceit,

**All Confront every lie with your truth.**

Leader Where there is hopelessness,

**All Reveal deep wells of compassion.**

Leader Where there is joy,

**All Let your kindly protection be known.**

Leader Where we hesitate to serve you,

**All Make us restless until we change.**

Leader For yours is the kingdom, the power

and the glory for ever.

**Amen**.

**Blessing**  The light of God to lead us.

The power of God to hold us.

The joy of God to heal us.

The grace of God to caress us.

The love of God to bless us.

**All Amen.**

**The following pages are also taken from a book called ‘The heart of Creation’**

 **Poem – Questions**

To fly or not to fly? – that is the question:

whether it is better for the planet to risk

damp greyness of a British summer,

or to take the plane travelling to distant shores;

so in bright warmth relax – meet Thai, meet African,

no more? To support a poorer culture

with the need to take a break,

and by my holiday learn more of them.

’Tis surely better than a walled hotel

of Western pleasure on The Gambia’s shore?

But what of carbon? Ah! There’s the rub.

An element when burned

rises through the sky to make a thicker blanket,

a stratum in the atmosphere

to warm the seas and change the weather,

throwing all in flux.

What then for all – let alone the hapless poor?

Useless the ancient knowledge of seedtime and harvest,

seasons of rain and sun, all is change, all uncertain.

We here do sleep, perchance to dream

of times when we knew naught of such a harm,

building still e’en larger places for the plane,

when it doth burn its fuel higher in the skies

than any other form of travel that we know.

How now can we ignore it – commerce and travellers both?

Yet how shrink back within our little shores?

Time marches onwards never back.

Let conscience give us courage to move forwards,

our native resolution strengthen us to find gentle ways

for our world’s enterprises of great moment.

Meanwhile, dear friends, till these are found

we could consider this adventure

that we will travel on the ground.

**Chris Polhill (with apologies to Shakespeare)**