



*Your name:*

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**you are most welcome to this**

**AREA COUNCIL GATHERING  
Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> October 2021**

**This is your  
WORSHIP BOOKLET  
(and Pilgrimage Passport)**

# Opening Worship

## Gathering music: *Sent by the Lord am I*

*Before you enter the worship space, you're invited to choose a stone from the basket at the entrance. This is yours to keep for the day. We will gather them together again during the closing worship.*

## 'Housekeeping' and Words of welcome

*Canon Christine Fraser*

## Opening hymn:

Creator God, abundant life you mark,  
you once poured speech into the formless dark;  
and from those words sprang forth a living spark.  
Your inspiration  
awoke creation.

And so this world, in which we live and move,  
all that we sense below, around, above,  
displays the imprint of your longing love:  
its revelation  
throughout creation.

Come, Holy Spirit, challenge mind and heart!  
Inspire our living so that we can start  
to make those choices which may yet impart  
Love's liberation  
to your creation.

We pledge to touch all things with holy care  
until your coming kingdom ends despair:  
when all the world will witness and will share  
the jubilation  
of healed creation.

Words: Pat Bennett (b1957)  
Tune: SINE NOMINE

# Why the Stones? *David Mackenzie Mills*

## Introductory quote:

'[Put] simply, not enough people are dying yet in our western countries: of skin cancer, of UV rays, or from pollution – Toxification illnesses. Nor are enough coastal communities drowning yet from rising sea levels due to global warming. The visible, tangible, avoidable consequences of eco-disaster are not yet powerful enough to persuade sufficient people to change today's priorities.'

## A Litany:

Voice 1 'This world will see me out.'

Voice 2 'In the last days it will be, God declares, that I will pour out my Spirit upon all flesh, and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, and your young men shall see visions, and your old men shall dream dreams.  
(Acts 2. 17)

## *Kyrie eleison (sung)*

Voice 1 'That plane was going to fly whether I was on it or not.'

Voice 2 "It is wrong and immoral to seek to escape the consequences of one's acts." (*Mahatma Gandhi*)

## *Kyrie eleison (sung)*

Voice 1 'Time is money.'

Voice 2 Keep close to Nature's heart... and break clear away, once in awhile, and climb a mountain or spend a week in the woods. Wash your spirit clean. (*John Muir*)

## *Kyrie eleison (sung)*

Voice 1 'I'm just one person. Do my choices even matter in a world of 7 billion people?'

Voice 2 “Truly I tell you, just as you did not do it to one of the least of these, you did not do it to me.” (*Matthew 25. 45*)

### **Kyrie eleison (sung)**

Voice 1 ‘Why should I deprive myself of meat and air travel?’

Voice 2 It is through this mysterious power that we too have our being, and we therefore yield to our neighbours, even to our animal neighbours, the same right as ourselves to inhabit this vast land. (*Sitting Bull*)

Is this what we are headed for in the West? Is our denial of reality so great, our denial of our finitude and the planets finitude so strong that, having rolled back our boundaries so firmly over other people and species, having externalized our costs to such a degree, we have lost the ability to self limit, and must wait for the limitations laid upon us by catastrophe and tragedy? (*Kathy Galloway*)

### **Brief conversation:**

*As you are asked to consider issues of climate change, and hear the call to be part of a global response, which reaction do you instinctively feel?*

- flight
- fight            **Please do share one reason why that might be.**
- freeze

### **Chant: Ubi Caritas et amor**

Ubi caritas et amor, ubi caritas, Deus ibi est.  
*Where love is, there is God.*

## Pausing for prayer:

Creator God of love, we offer you our anxieties about the health and future of this beautiful planet that we call home. In this house of prayer and on this day, we ask you to:

- stir the hearts and minds of major global perpetrators of pollution:

*(brief space for open prayer)*

*(sung response as a candle is lit)*

*Listen Lord, listen Lord, not to our words but to our prayer.*

*You alone, you alone understand and care.*

- bless and protect people affected by climate change now:

*(brief space for open prayer)*

*(sung response as a candle is lit)*

*Listen Lord, listen Lord, not to our words but to our prayer.*

*You alone, you alone understand and care.*

- raise up prophetic voices whose calls for action cannot be ignored:

*(brief space for open prayer)*

*(sung response as a candle is lit)*

*Listen Lord, listen Lord, not to our words but to our prayer.*

*You alone, you alone understand and care.*

‘The Earth is dying. Our sisters and brothers are dying. We need to turn our priorities upside down. We need to help to affect a revolution in consciousness. We need to start somewhere. There are so many good people everywhere who want to live differently, who want to live more gently and simply and more in harmony with God’s creation. We are living in dark days.’ (Neil Paynter, 2000)

**Our Father in heaven,  
hallowed be your Name,  
your kingdom come,  
your will be done on earth as in heaven.  
Give us today our daily bread  
and forgive us our sins  
as we forgive those who sin against us.  
Do not bring us into the time of trial  
but deliver us from evil.  
For the kingdom, the power  
and the glory are yours  
now and for ever.  
Amen.**

### **Words of commitment:**

Open our eyes, Lord,  
**to see your glory.**

Open our ears, Lord,  
**to hear your call.**

Open our lips, Lord,  
**to sing your praises.**

Then guide us together on this pilgrimage of faith  
and journey of discovery.

**May we walk with Him who is the Way,  
the Truth and the Life  
and find our freedom in his service;  
even our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.  
Amen**

## Segway song:

*You're invited to take a pre-prepared printed pledge as we prepare for the morning's input or write one of your own later.*

Sent by the Lord am I;  
My hands are ready now  
To make the earth a place  
In which the kingdom comes.  
(Repeat)

The angels cannot change  
A world of hurt and pain  
Into a world of love,  
Of justice and of peace.

The task is mine to do,  
To set it really free.  
O help me to obey;  
Help me to do your will.

*Words: José Aguiar,  
Jorge Maldonda (tr)  
Tune: ENVIADO*

## STAMPS FOR YOUR PILGRIMAGE PASSPORT

Gathering Arrivals

Session 1  
completed

Lunchtime  
enjoyed!

Labyrinth walk

Session 2  
completed

Gathering  
Farewell

In caring for the Earth, I will decrease my carbon footprint by ...

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# Gathering Closing Worship

**Intro music: *A Pilgrim's Progress* (Matt Papa)**

## **Station 1: Setting Out**

*As we gather for our closing worship, you're invited to take a moment to look at the symbols of pilgrimage on the Altar:*

- *rucksack*
- *map(s)*
- *walking staff*
- *a shell, a symbol of pilgrimage*
- *prayer book*

## **Introduction on 'making pilgrimage' today**

### **The Pilgrim begins their journey**

*You can follow the Pilgrim's journey between stations using the finger map inside your Order of Service*

## **Station 2: Confession**

*We hear read a poem entitled, 'Prodigal' (Anon.)*

God of our journeying,  
inviting us to travel with you,  
forgive us when we cling to outworn security,  
afraid to let go of what is safe and familiar.  
Give us courage  
to take the risk  
of answering your call  
into joyous adventure.

## Hymn – To be a pilgrim

Who would true valour see,  
let them come hither;  
one here will constant be,  
come wind, come weather;  
there's no discouragement  
shall make them once relent  
their first avowed intent  
to be a pilgrim.

Whoso beset them round  
with dismal stories,  
do but themselves confound;  
God's strength the more is.  
No lion can them fright;  
they'll with a giant fight  
but they will have a right  
to be a pilgrim.

Hobgoblin nor foul fiend  
can daunt their spirit;  
they know that, at the end  
shall life inherit.  
Then fancies flee away;  
they'll fear not what some say;  
they'll labour night and day  
to be a pilgrim.

Words: John Bunyan  
Tune: MONK'S GATE

### Station 3: Sharing

*A time for brief conversation:*

*What's your biggest 'takeaway' from today?*

### Station 4: Thanksgiving, praise, rejoicing

*An opportunity in plenary to say 'thank you' to God in 3 words for the day's activities.*

**Music:** *O for a closer walk with God (C.V. Stanford)*

**We believe in God  
the maker and shaper of our pathways;  
who sent Jesus to show us the narrow way,  
and who is the beginning and end of our travelling.**

**We believe in Jesus Christ  
the sharer of our flesh;  
who entered and experienced the human journey,  
and who walks beside us on the road.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit  
the midwife and nurture of our potential;  
who drove Jesus out into the desert,  
and who calls us now to cast off from the shore.**

**We believe in Father, Son and Spirit  
the shaper, sharer and stirrer of our journeys;  
and we recommit ourselves to following their way.  
(Pat Bennett)**

*We leave the worship space by row and gather outside at the last station. **\*\*Please take your stone with you!\*\****

## **Station 5: Unburdening / absolution**

*As we leave the building, do take a moment to reflect on the artwork entitled, 'Unburdened' by Douglas Ramsey.*

*We place the stones we have carried all day on the shape of the Cross.*

*Bishop Ian gives the Absolution.*

## Closing hymn

You shall go out with joy and be led forth with peace,  
And the mountains and the hills shall break forth before you.  
There'll be shouts of joy and the trees of the fields  
Shall clap, shall clap their hands.  
and the trees of the fields shall clap their hands,  
and the trees of the fields shall clap their hands,  
and the trees of the fields shall clap their hands,  
and you'll go out with joy.

*Feel free to take your leave or stay around to chat!*

*A huge 'thank you' to everyone who has made today possible:*

- Canon Christine Fraser and the congregation at St Peter's for hosting us*
- The worship group at St Paul's Kinross who put the liturgies together*
- Bishop Ian and members of the Diocese whose idea this was!*
- Each one of you for being a part of today's Gathering event!*

*May your onward travels from here be safe.*

*May the road rise up to meet you.*

*May the wind be always at your back.*

*May the sun shine warm upon your face;*

*the rains fall soft upon your fields*

*and until we meet again,*

*may God hold you in the palm of God's hand.*