

SUNDAY 3RD OCTOBER 2021
CAFÉ CHURCH
ECO CHURCH – ACT 1 – CREATION
GENESIS 2:4-15

WELCOME and CALL TO WORSHIP: Psalm 24:1
‘The earth is the Lord’s and everything in it.’

OPENING SONG: ALL CREATION CRIES TO YOU
**All creation cries to you,
Worshipping in spirit and in truth.
Glory to the Faithful One,
Jesus Christ, God's Son.**

**All creation gives You praise,
You alone are truly great;
You alone are God who reigns
For eternity.**

*God is great and His praise
Fills the earth, fills the heavens,
And Your name will be praised
Through all the world.
God is great, sing His praise
All the earth, all the heavens,
'Cause we're living for the glory of Your name,
The glory of Your name.*

**All to You, O God, we bring.
Jesus, teach us how to live.
Let Your fire burn in us
That all may hear and all may see.**

**"Holy is the Lord,"
The whole earth sings,
The whole earth sings.
(Repeat)**

OPENING PRAYER AND CONFESSION
Creator God, whose Word brought all things into
being
We praise you
Jesus our Lord, through whom all things were
made
We praise you
Holy Spirit, breath and life of God
We praise you

**God, we praise you, Father, Son and Holy Spirit.
Amen.**

Father God, when we have denied you as Creator
Lord, forgive us

Lord Jesus, when we have rejected your Lordship
over the whole of our life

Lord, forgive us

Holy Spirit, where we have quenched your work
in us

Lord, forgive us

Father, Son and Holy Spirit, forgive us for
damaging the world you made and not caring for
it.

Lord, forgive us.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

**Lord, forgive us and set us free
to recognise your continuing work
in the world, now and always. Amen.**

This is what Scripture tells us: ‘Therefore, there is
now no condemnation for those who are in Christ
Jesus.’ Walk in the freedom that Jesus gives. Your
sins are forgiven. **Thanks be to God. Amen.**

OFFERTORY PRAYER

Loving God, you have given us so much; this
beautiful planet, one another, and most of all
yourself. We now give these gifts and ourselves
to you, so that others may recognise your
goodness to us; through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

INTRO TO THE THEME: ECO CHURCH – Act 1:
Creation

If you have ever been to a play, you’ll know that it
is often in two parts with an interval in the
middle. Each part can be divided into further
parts, called acts. If we were to do that with the
Bible, I wonder how many acts there would be.
What would you consider as the main acts of the
Bible?

Starting today and going through October until
the first Sunday of November, we are looking at a
new series, taking five great acts of the Bible and
looking at one each week. This series is called

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ECO CHURCH, and we begin at the beginning. Act 1 is creation.

GODLY PLAY – CREATION: Mandy

READING: GENESIS 2:4-15

This is the account of the heavens and the earth when they were created, when the Lord God made the earth and the heavens. 5 Now no shrub had yet appeared on the earth and no plant had yet sprung up, for the Lord God had not sent rain on the earth and there was no one to work the ground, 6 but streams came up from the earth and watered the whole surface of the ground. 7 Then the Lord God formed a man from the dust of the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, and the man became a living being.

8 Now the Lord God had planted a garden in the east, in Eden; and there he put the man he had formed. 9 The Lord God made all kinds of trees grow out of the ground – trees that were pleasing to the eye and good for food. In the middle of the garden were the tree of life and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. 10 A river watering the garden flowed from Eden; from there it was separated into four headwaters. 11 The name of the first is the Pishon; it winds through the entire land of Havilah, where there is gold. 12 (The gold of that land is good; aromatic resin and onyx are also there.) 13 The name of the second river is the Gihon; it winds through the entire land of Cush. 14 The name of the third river is the Tigris; it runs along the east side of Ashur. And the fourth river is the Euphrates.

15 The Lord God took the man and put him in the Garden of Eden to work it and take care of it.

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

SONG: DOWN THE MOUNTAIN

**Down the mountain the river flows,
And it brings refreshing wherever it goes.**

**Through the valleys and over the fields,
The river is rushing and the river is here.**

*The river of God sets our feet a-dancing,
The river of God fills our hearts with cheer;
The river of God fills our mouths with laughter,
And we rejoice for the river is here.*

**The river God is teeming with life,
And all who touch it can be revived.
And those who linger on this river's shore
Will come back thirsting for more of the Lord.**

**Up to the mountain we love to go
To find the presence of the Lord.
Along the banks of the river we run,
We dance with laughter, giving praise to the Son.**

ACTIVITIES

In place of a reflection, here are some questions for you to consider. Alternately, you can take a Psalm of creation, e.g., Psalm 8, 19, 104, 139 or 148, and re-write it using your own words.

QUESTIONS FOR CONSIDERATION

1. What can we learn about God from creation?
2. What can we learn about creation itself, especially its relationship with God and humanity?
3. What can we learn about being human and our place within creation?
4. What practical difference does it make to everyday life if we believe either that the earth is God or that the earth belongs to God? In other words, does it matter what you believe about how the world began with regard to caring for the planet?
5. How should the Biblical view that 'The earth is the Lord's and everything in it' (Psalm 24:1) affect our attitude to possessions and property?
6. Do you think God has anything to say about how we care for the planet? If so, what?

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7. What decisions do you currently make in order to care for the environment?
8. How do you think we should respond to people who appear not to care about the world?
9. What changes could you make in your life that could contribute to 'saving the planet'?
10. What needs to happen before industry /companies/ governments take caring for creation seriously?
11. Does the government have a role in passing legislation to encourage us (and industry) to care for the planet? If so, what kind of legislation?
12. What small action could you do to take care of creation this week?
13. What actions could we do as a Church to take care of creation?

SILENT PRAYER OF THANKFULNESS

Think about your favourite part of creation and spend a moment in silent prayer giving thanks for it.

SONG: FROM THE HIGHEST OF HEIGHTS

**From the highest of heights to the depths of the sea,
Creation's revealing Your majesty.
From the colours of fall to the fragrance of spring,
Every creature unique in the song that it sings.
All exclaiming:**

*Indescribable, uncontainable,
You placed the stars in the sky,
and You know them by name:
You are amazing, God.
All-powerful, untameable;
Awestruck, we fall to our knees
as we humbly proclaim:
You are amazing, God.*

**Who has told every lightning bolt
where it should go,
Or seen heavenly storehouses laden with snow?
Who imagined the sun
and gives source to its light,
Yet conceals it to bring us the coolness of night?
None can fathom.**

*Indescribable, uncontainable,
You placed the stars in the sky,
and You know them by name:
You are amazing, God.
Incomparable, unchangeable,
You see the depths of my heart
and you love me the same;
You are amazing, God.*

CLOSING PRAYER AND BLESSING

Creator God, you have put us in the world you made and tasked us with caring for this world. Help us this week to act for the sake of this world, that all people may know you care; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Blessed be the God of the creation, whose word brought life into existence.

Blessed be the God who made us in his image and gives us creativity.

Blessed be the God who gave us the task of caring for creation.

May the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit be with you now and always. Amen.

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

In the name of Christ. Amen.