

Sunday 22nd August 2021

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God is love, let us adore God by sharing God's love.
God is ever present, around us and within us,
though separate let us worship together in God.

God in the sunshine and the rain, God in the land and in the sea,
God in the lives of all people the same,
you call us to be one with creation and all we can see.

Today's worship is a journey to the seaside in all its different aspects, reflecting through photographs on God's message of love and the challenge us to explore the fullness of our humanity.

Suggested hymn Summer suns are glowing

Listen [here](#)

Prayer

Loving God, we come to worship you, to offer you praise and thanksgiving.

We praise you for the wonders of our world, from the highest peak to the deepest water our world is filled with amazing life; from the single celled microbe to the million-celled whale, from the granite faced mountain to the intricate snowflake and everything in between. Every day is different, with a variety of weather that both challenges and refreshes, creating the environment in which life exists and flourishes. From forests to plains, from orchards to rice fields, food is grown and nurtured by the climate and by those who work the land, providing food and nourishment for humanity. For all this and more we praise you.

As we praise you, we are reminded for how much we need to give thanks.

For the beauty which surrounds us and your love which holds us; for friends and family, colleagues and acquaintances who share our interests and our lives; for each new day with all its opportunities, and the technology which allows us to keep in touch even in difficult times; for food on the table and fresh water from the tap, for inspiration from books, magazines and television which nourishes our minds; for the life of the church, the message of Jesus, the guidance of the Spirit, and the promise of eternal life in you, for all these things and more we give you our thanks.

Lord's Prayer

Reading Psalm 65:5-13

Reflection Riding the waves

To ride the wave
you must first swim against the tide;
risk the energy sapping waves and swell
and then prepare.

Timing is everything.

Knowing when it is right to stand
and ride the wave

is only learnt by experience.

There will be many false starts.

There will be crashes.

There will be times we rise
only to fall and be swamped

but there is always another opportunity
to rise and ride the wave.

God is our surfboard, lifting us to a new experience.

Creator God of the crashing sea,
in you is timing, in you is knowledge,
in you is riding the wave.

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Suggested hymn (Tune – Bunessen, listen [here](#))

Praise God, creator,
source of all being,
present around us,
and deep within.

When we are open,
accepting and loving,
we find connections,
journeys begin.

Praise God in singing,
dancing and playing,
showing God's wonders
through every word.

Sharing ideas,
new paths revealing,
journeys continue,
Spirit is heard.

Praise God for journeys,
leading us onward,
leading us inward,
broadening sight.

Praise God for loving
all of creation,
sustaining living
providing light.

Praise God in all things,
never forgetting,
love builds and fosters
oneness in all.

We are together,
held in creation,
bound in the Spirit,
part of the whole.

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Reflection Seabird

Undaunted by the waves you wade into the sea,
ready to investigate and discover, a small bird in a big world.

Trusting in creation you are not overcome by fear,
but live life in the present.

You appear alone and yet you are one with all of nature,
and one with God.

The whole sea is your table and the sky is your highway,
you feed, you fly, you rest, you live.

You are vulnerable and yet you live life to the full,
soaring on the wind and swooping in delight,
buffeted by currents and yet living in the spirit.

Loving and caring God,

in you we can soar and laugh with delight.

In you we live whilst being buffeted by the world.

In you we can be alone and yet be one with all of creation.

In you we can trust.

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Reading

Matthew 25:34-40

Reflection Passing People

Streets filled with people;

busy people,

purposeful people,

browsing people,

holidaying people,

passing the time people.

God's people.

Sometimes we don't see people;

we are so intent on what we are doing

we are unaware of others,

they become nothing more than obstacles
on the course of life.

We pass people, God's people

without even noticing.

Creator God,

teach us to smile your smile,

to live your love,

to look people in the eye

and let your face say hi!

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Suggested Hymn

Children of God reach out to one another

Listen [here](#)

Remembering – Take a moment to remember a favourite seaside holiday, it may be in this country or it could be abroad, but one that holds a special place in your memory. Why does it mean more than other holidays, what do associate with that holiday, a feeling, a special time, a special place? You could explore this more later.

Reflection Living on the Edge

A coastal path.

A path that follows the edge, safe but close to danger.

The edge,

the boundary, a point of change,

land and sea, life and death.

The path of life does not always take the safe route, sometimes we must feel the stones scuff from under our feet and fall over the precipice.

Creator God you invite us to be risk takers,
living life on the edge,
prepared to say hi to a friend who is still a stranger,
to invite ourselves into other people's lives,
to risk getting involved,
to catch those who are falling
and be prepared to fall with them.

You invite us to trust you and to trust ourselves,

to become you as we learn to be ourselves.

Living life in all its fullness.



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Suggested hymn

God who sets us on a journey

Listen [here](#)

Prayers

Creator God, as we worship together, we bring our prayers of concern and commitment. On this summer day we remember holidays, times of relaxation and refreshment, times of exploration and wonder and we thank you for the memories. We have missed holidays recently and this has made us more aware of those people who cannot enjoy a holiday, people who live in poverty, people who are too frail to travel or afraid to leave home, children who have never seen the seaside and experienced the freedom of running along the shoreline. May we be mindful of the needs of others as we plan our holidays and find ways to support organisations who seek to offer holidays for those trapped in situations which make holidays difficult.

Creator God, may we share opportunities creatively and build castles of love generously.

As we visit new places, excited to see and hear the sounds around us may we not forget to look beneath the façade of tourism and be aware of the lives of the people who work in the hotels in which we stay, the shops in which we browse, and who seek to make a living in ways so different from our own.

Creator God, may we share opportunities creatively and build castles of love generously.

As we travel, grateful for the ease with which we can cover many miles, may we be aware of those who work to ease our travel, showing gratitude through our words and actions. May we also be mindful of the cost to the planet and plan our travels wisely, lowering our carbon footprint as much as possible to reduce the effect on climate change. When we watch the news and see earthquakes and floods may we remember that all travel has an effect, and we are part of the cause of destruction.

Creator God, may we share opportunities creatively and build castles of love generously.

Loving God may we take every opportunity to learn more of our humanity by reflecting prayerfully on every experience and observing how love weaves its way through life, encouraging growth and

nurturing new ideas as we journey wider and deeper into the oneness of creation. When we share together our experiences may we help one another to reflect and encourage one another to act in new and loving ways as we walk the way of Jesus.

Creator God, may we share opportunities creatively and build castles of love generously.

As we think of holidays spent with family and friends, we remember the love shared and the memories that hold us together. Life changes as we journey but we hold one another in love even though we can no longer travel together. May we take time to remember those shared times and reflect upon the experiences and, where we can, finding ways to remember together through photographs, music, and laughter.

Creator God, may we share opportunities creatively and build castles of love generously.

In our communities and in our churches may we reach out to those who are alone or isolated using our creativity to build opportunities of journeying together in different ways mindful of the call to be one with each other and one with creation in all our living.

Creator God, may we share opportunities creatively and build castles of love generously.

In Jesus name, amen.

Offertory

As we worship together, we pledge our commitment to sharing in the work of our church through our continued offering and by exploring new ways of living generously, and may we know your blessing on all we do. Amen

Reflection Looking to the sea

Houses by the sea, a rainbow of colour,
the last stand of individuality before the sea encompasses all.
From waterfall to stream,
from stream to river, from river to sea.
Our uniqueness becomes less the closer we come to God.

Some will ride the sea in multicoloured bobbing boats,
relishing the danger, sensing themselves closer
but this is not communion.

Communion is a willingness to lose self,
to live for and with others, to be a part of the whole,
to leave behind the multicoloured houses
and become God.

Almighty God, you invite us to journey into communion,
to learn to become you and be,
may we have the courage to let go and be.

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Communion

Please have a piece of bread and a small glass of wine, cordial, or water.

When Jesus was on earth, he often enjoyed meals with his friends.

On the night before he died, when darkness was beginning to fall, he sat at table with the disciples in an upper room in Jerusalem. At this Last Supper, he broke bread and took wine, and told his disciples to remember him by following his example and sharing his message by their words and actions. Today, we are his followers, and we accept his challenge.

Though we are apart we are one in God, and the bread and wine we share are part of creation, as we are, and in sharing them we are sharing in the eternal oneness.
As the Jesus took bread and wine, we take this bread and wine,
set apart for this holy use, in this moment.



Sing
Tune Old Hundreth
Listen [here](#)

Gathered together within God,
source of all life here and beyond;
here we will share in bread and wine,
gifts of great love for humankind.

Jesus gave thanks, let us give our thanks and praise

Let us pray:

Loving God, you created this world in all its wonder for us to enjoy.

In Jesus, we have discovered a new way to be,

a new way to see the world, and a new way to understand you.

In you we are one with all creation. In you is all love.

For the gift of your love we thank you, and join with those who have gone before in a hymn of praise:

Eternal God of power and might, all creation is full of your glory praise be to you.

Your blessing is on all who gather in your name praise be to you.

For your gracious kindness to all your people, we give you thanks.

We thank you for Jesus and his message of hope, life eternal in the Christ,
the one who was before, is now and forever will be.

We thank you that Jesus has revealed to us our oneness within you,

challenging our false understanding of separateness.

We thank you that we are free to gather together,

strengthened by your love and encouraging each other in your love.

Take these your gifts of bread and wine,

that in them, we may know your presence,

and in sharing them be filled with your love. Amen

Jesus took bread, (hold bread)

and having given thanks, he broke it,

and said, 'This is my body, which will be broken.

Whenever you share together remember me.'

Loving God, we share the eternal oneness of this bread.

From seed to grain, from grain to flour, from flour to bread blessed by creativity. As we eat this bread, we are blessed in its oneness with creation and our oneness with you and all people. (eat)

In the same way Jesus took a cup of wine saying, 'this wine is the new covenant, whenever you drink it remember me.' (hold glass)

This is the promise of eternal life in the oneness of God.

Loving God, in this cup we remember the promise of eternal life in your oneness. As we drink this wine reveal in us your Spirit that we may journey in love, remembering that the light of Christ gives new life to all and helps us see things afresh. (drink)

Having shared together we commit ourselves anew to the way of Jesus, the way of love. May our lives be witness to oneness, and our words and actions be witness to your love, in Jesus' name Amen.

Sing
(Old Hundreth)
Listen [here](#)

Here having shared a holy feast,
given in love for all to eat,
now we will journey on in love,
one with each other and with God.

Blessing

May the blessing that is the knowledge of God, source of all being, the love of God discovered through Jesus and the inspiration of the Spirit which binds us together be with us on our journey this day and every day. Amen.