

Worship at Home – 14th September 2025 (24th in Ordinary Time)
A short act of worship for use in people's homes prepared by Erica Gassor.

Call to worship

This is the second week that we are looking at the theme 'Creation Time' as we think more deeply about our Harvest celebrations later this month. Our call to Worship is taken from Romans 1:2

"For since the creation of the world God's invisible qualities -- his eternal power and divine nature -- have been clearly seen, being understood from what has been made, so that men are without excuse."

Hymn – STF 102 – For the beauty of the earth Folliott Sandford Pierpoint (1835-1917)

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| 1 For the beauty of the earth,
for the beauty of the skies,
for the love which from our birth
over and around us lies:
<i>Gracious God, to you we raise
this our sacrifice of praise.</i> | 2 For the beauty of each hour
of the day and of the night,
hill and vale, and tree and flower,
sun and moon and stars of light:
<i>Chorus</i> |
| 3 For the joy of ear and eye,
for the heart and mind's delight,
for the mystic harmony
linking sense to sound and sight:
<i>Chorus</i> | 4 For the joy of human love,
brother, sister, parent, child,
friends on earth, and friends above,
pleasures pure and undefiled:
<i>Chorus</i> |
| 5 For each perfect gift and sign
of your love so freely given,
graces human and divine,
flowers of earth and buds of heaven:
<i>Chorus</i> | |

Prayers of adoration, confession and thanksgiving

O Lord of heaven and earth,
the heavens declare Your glory,
the skies proclaim the work of Your hands.
From the rising of the sun to its setting,
creation lifts its voice in praise,
and we join the song of earth and sky,
sea and land, creature and all living things.

Merciful God,
we confess our failure to honour the work of Your hands.
We have turned from the harmony of Your design,
scarred the beauty of Your garden,
and forgotten that all life is a sacred trust.
Forgive us, restore us,
and teach us again to walk gently in Your world.

Gracious Father,
we give You thanks for the gift of creation—
for light and warmth,
for wind and water,
for fields and forests,
for every good thing that sustains and delights.

We thank You above all
for the promise of renewal in Christ,
through whom You make all things new.
To You be all glory, honour, and praise,
now and forever. **Amen**

Bible reading – Psalm 19

God's Glory in Creation and the Law
To the leader. A Psalm of David.

¹ The heavens are telling the glory of God;
and the firmament proclaims his handiwork.
² Day to day pours forth speech,
and night to night declares knowledge.
³ There is no speech, nor are there words;
their voice is not heard;
⁴ yet their voice goes out through all the earth,
and their words to the end of the world.
In the heavens he has set a tent for the sun,
⁵ which comes out like a bridegroom from his wedding canopy,
and like a strong man runs its course with joy.
⁶ Its rising is from the end of the heavens,
and its circuit to the end of them;
and nothing is hid from its heat.
⁷ The law of the Lord is perfect,
reviving the soul;
the decrees of the Lord are sure,
making wise the simple;
⁸ the precepts of the Lord are right,
rejoicing the heart;
the commandment of the Lord is clear,
enlightening the eyes;
⁹ the fear of the Lord is pure,
enduring forever;
the ordinances of the Lord are true
and righteous altogether.
¹⁰ More to be desired are they than gold,
even much fine gold;
sweeter also than honey,
and drippings of the honeycomb.
¹¹ Moreover by them is your servant warned;
in keeping them there is great reward.
¹² But who can detect their errors?
Clear me from hidden faults.
¹³ Keep back your servant also from the insolent;
do not let them have dominion over me.
Then I shall be blameless,
and innocent of great transgression.

¹⁴ Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart
be acceptable to you,
O Lord, my rock and my redeemer.

Bible reading – Colossians 1:16-20

The Supremacy of Christ

¹⁶ In him all things in heaven and on earth were created, things visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or powers—all things have been created through him and for him. ¹⁷ He himself is before all things, and in him all things hold together. ¹⁸ He is the head of the body, the church; he is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, so that he might come to have first place in everything. ¹⁹ For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, ²⁰ and through him God was pleased to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, by making peace through the blood of his cross.

Hymn – STF 11 – Holy Holy Holy, Lord God Almighty Reginald Heber (1783-1826)

- 1 Holy, holy, holy! Lord God Almighty!
 early in the morning our song shall rise to thee;
 holy, holy, holy! merciful and mighty!
 God in three Persons, blessed Trinity!
- 2 Holy, holy, holy! all the saints adore thee,
 casting down their golden crowns around the glassy sea;
 cherubim and seraphim falling down before thee,
 which wert and art and evermore shalt be.
- 3 Holy, holy, holy! though the darkness hide thee,
 though the sinful human eye thy glory may not see,
 only thou art holy, there is none beside thee
 perfect in power, in love, and purity.
- 4 Holy, holy, holy! Lord God almighty!
 all thy works shall praise thy name in earth and sky and sea;
 holy, holy, holy! merciful and mighty!
 God in three Persons, blessed Trinity.

Reflection on the reading

We are thinking this morning about God's wonderful creation and, gosh, how amazing it is. I have been lucky enough to visit the Lake District each year for the past 30 years and it still overwhelms me with its beauty! I always have to stop and take in the scenery and praise God as my eyes well with tears at the beauty. The amazingly peaceful lakes, the smaller hidden tarns, the rolling majestic hills and valleys rich in vegetation. I love to go in the Autumn to see the variety of colours - the greens, yellows and browns of Autumn and the rhythm of the season so plain to see. It is so easy to feel close to God and recognise his majestic power. And yet, His amazing creation is all around us – not just in one area. Look around our gardens, the countryside around our homes and we can see God's creation everywhere – no wonder we celebrate at Harvest. Recognizing all the hard work of those who prepare our food from God's creation and thanking God for his provision for us all.

It is a time when we must remember also to care for our World and protect God's creation for future generations. When I was a child, we never thought about 'sustainability' and 'climate

change' but these are all areas that we are now aware of and to which each one of us can make a small contribution in respect and love for our Father God who is the creator of all things. The World and climate is changing but God always remains the 'constant' loving Father of us all and creation. To have God's love and care for each one of us, whatever is happening in our lives and the World, is a wonderful gift and our assurance for today and for the future. **Amen**

Prayers for the world, others and ourselves

Creator God, we bring our prayers to you thinking of how we can care for your creation, we thank You for the beauty and bounty that we have around us. In this Season of Creation, may our hearts awaken to Your presence in every tree, river, and creature.

God of justice, may we resist systems that exploit your creation, restore dignity to the marginalized, and sow seeds of peace and hope together.

Heavenly Father, strengthen those who lead and participate in care for your creation. May these prayers inspire real transformation in how we live and care for our earth.

Compassionate God, be with all who are affected by climate-related disasters. Grant them resilience, hope, and the support they need to rebuild and flourish.

Almighty God, inspire political and global leaders with courage and wisdom, that they may act justly and protect those most vulnerable to the climate crisis.

We bring all our prayers to you, trusting you in power. **Amen**

You may now wish to say The Lord's Prayer in a version or translation with which you are familiar.

Hymn – STF 82 – How great Thou art! Stuart K Hine (1899-1989)

- 1 O Lord my God! when I in awesome wonder
Consider all the works Thy hand hath made,
I see the stars, I hear the mighty thunder,
Thy power throughout the universe displayed:
*Then sings my soul, my Saviour God to Thee,
How great Thou art! How great Thou art!*
*Then sings my soul, my Saviour God, to Thee,
How great Thou art! How great Thou art!*
- 2 When through the woods and forest glades I wander
And hear the birds sing sweetly in the trees;
When I look down from lofty mountain grandeur,
And hear the brook, and feel the gentle breeze;
Refrain
- 3 And when I think that God His Son not sparing,
Sent Him to die-I scarce can take it in.
That on the cross my burden gladly bearing,
He bled and died to take away my sin:
Refrain
- 4 When Christ shall come with shout of acclamation
And take me home-what joy shall fill my heart!
Then shall I bow in humble adoration
And there proclaim, my God, how great Thou art!
Refrain

Blessing

And now may the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with us all, this day and ever more. **Amen**

Bible readings from [New International Reader's Version \(NIRV\)](#)

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