



Thursday Prayers  
October 2022

**Transformation – NOW!  
HARVEST**

The way we treat Creation is a reflection of the way we treat the Creator

**Opening prayer**

It is from you, Holy One,  
that we have received all that we have.

**We are your people,  
dependent upon you for our very being.**

It is to you, Holy One,  
that we return all that we are.

**We are your people,  
joyous co-creators with you.**

It is in your name, Holy One,  
that we share your bounty.

**We are your people,  
your partners in dreaming anew.**

*from Dreaming Anew, a liturgy from the Seekers\_Church*

**Great is thy faithfulness**

*sung by St Martin's Voices*

Great is thy faithfulness, O God my Father,  
there is no shadow of turning with thee;  
thou changest not, thy compassions they fail not,  
as thou hast been thou for ever wilt be.

*Great is thy faithfulness!*

*Great is thy faithfulness!*

*Morning by morning new mercies I see;*

*all I have needed thy hand hath provided -  
great is thy faithfulness, Lord unto me!*

Summer and winter, and spring-time and harvest,  
sun, moon and stars in their courses above,  
join with all nature in manifold witness  
to thy great faithfulness, mercy and love.

*Chorus*

Pardon for sin and a peace that endureth,  
thine own dear presence to cheer and to guide;  
strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow,  
blessings all mine, with ten thousand beside!

*Chorus*

*Thomas O Chisholm (1866-1960)*

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### **Bible Reading: Luke 15: 11-20**

Jesus told this parable:

There was a man who had two sons. The younger one said to his father, 'Father, give me my share of the estate.' So he divided his property between them.

"Not long after that, the younger son got together all he had, set off for a distant country and there squandered his wealth in wild living. After he had spent everything, there was a severe famine in that whole country, and he began to be in need. So he went and hired himself out to a citizen of that country, who sent him to his fields to feed pigs. He longed to fill his stomach with the pods that the pigs were eating, but no one gave him anything.

When he came to his senses, he said, 'How many of my father's hired servants have food to spare, and here am I starving to death! I will set out and go back to my father and say to him: Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you. I am no longer worthy to be called your son; make me like one of your hired servants.' So he got up and went to his father.

The younger son in this passage spent his entire inheritance - but had nothing to show for it. He was, indeed, the 'Wasteful Son', where we see a picture of greed, and failure to think about the long-term future. He squandered what he was given, on his immediate desires, without any thought of the consequences or the impact he was having on others.

As we celebrate God's abundance for us, this parable challenges us to reflect on the ways in which we, too, are wasteful.

### **FOOD WASTE.**

In the book, 'Changing the Climate' research from 2015 shows that humans worldwide, waste about a third of the food we produce every year.

Every day in the UK, we throw away 20 million slices of bread;

4.4 million potatoes and 3.1 million glasses of milk

70% of food waste in the UK comes from households.

And that amounts to around 5 million tons.

Enough to fill 70,000 3-bedroomed houses.

The financial worth or cost is about £15 billion. Which is around £70 a month for every person.

To say nothing, of course, of what it does to climate change...

**What will it take to bring us to our senses?**

### **CLOTHING WASTE**

Then we look into our wardrobes.

Generally speaking, items of clothing have a shelf life of about 3 years.

But what do we do with our no-longer-worn clothes?

Who of us has items hanging up that haven't been used ... for 5 years...

longer? And any impulse buys in there, with the labels still attached?

Did you know...£140 million worth of clothing ends up in landfill each year? Also not good for the environment.

**Can we RE-PAIR and RE-USE or RE-CYCLE?**

We give thanks that the wonderful ending of the story of the Prodigal Son is forgiveness from The Father, who was full of compassion for his child neither rebuking, judging nor embarrassing him for his squanderous living – but actually enabling a new start.

This is a story of hope, showing that there is still time to change our ways.

## Reflection

God of the harvest  
God of the land  
forgive our greed,  
our over-building  
and mass production,  
our wastefulness.

God of the harvest  
God of the seas  
forgive our greed,  
our over-fishing  
and needless killing for unnecessary delicacies,  
our wastefulness.

God of the harvest  
God of the skies  
forgive our greed and pollution,  
our desire for fast food delivery  
and excessive travel across the globe,  
our wastefulness.

We ask you to bless:  
those who struggle to make a meagre living  
from a famished and drought-ridden earth;  
those who are made refugees  
and are forced to live as strangers in lands without hope;  
those in our own land who struggle to make ends meet and are afraid  
for the future.

Creator God  
reconnect us to your creation,  
to its order and resources.

Redeemer God  
reconcile us to your creation.  
to each other and to you.

Spirit God  
renew us to live within your creation,  
aware of its seasons and our neighbours' needs.

God of the land  
God of the seas  
God of the skies  
bless us  
and make us a blessing  
to those in need  
within your created order. Amen

*Ruth Sowen, from Acorns and Archangels, an Iona publication*

### **For the beauty of the earth**

*sung by St Philip's Boys Choir*

For the beauty of the earth,  
for the beauty of the skies,  
for the love which from our birth  
over and around us lies  
over and around us lies:  
Lord of all, to thee we raise  
this our sacrifice of praise.

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  
sun and moon and stars of light  
Lord of all, to thee we raise  
this our sacrifice of praise.

For the joy of human love,  
brother, sister, parent, child,  
friends on earth, and friends above,  
for all gentle thoughts and mild  
for all gentle thoughts and mild  
for all gentle thoughts and mild  
Lord of all, to thee we raise  
this our sacrifice of praise.

For each perfect gift of thine  
to our race so freely given,  
graces human and divine,  
flow'rs of earth and buds of heav'n  
flow'rs of earth and buds of heav'n  
Lord of all, to thee we raise  
this our joyful hymn, our joyful hymn of praise  
this our joyful hymn of praise.

*John Rutter*

## **Prayers**

Unclutter our lives, Lord  
we have too much,  
consume too much,  
expect too much.

Grant us perspective;  
to see this world  
through others' eyes  
than just our own.

Grant us compassion;  
where there is need  
to play our part  
not turn aside.

Grant us gratitude  
for what we have,  
our daily bread  
the gift of life.

Unclutter our lives, Lord,  
give us space,  
simplicity  
thankful hearts.

*John Birch, Faith and Worship*

## **Mothers' Union Prayer**

Loving Lord, we thank you for your love  
so freely given to us all.

We pray for families around the world.

Bless the work of the Mothers' Union  
as we seek to share your love through the encouragement,  
strengthening and support of marriage and family life.

Empowered by your Spirit, may we be united  
in prayer and worship, and in love and service  
reach out as your hands across the world.

In Jesus' name.

Amen

## **Praise to the Lord, the Almighty**

*sung by St Martin's Voices*

Praise to the Lord, the Almighty, the King of creation;  
O my soul, praise him, for he is thy health and salvation:  
all ye who hear,  
now to his temple draw near,  
joining in glad adoration.

Praise to the Lord, who o'er all things so wondrously reigneth,  
shieldeth thee gently from harm, or when fainting sustaineth:  
hast thou not seen  
how thy heart's wishes have been  
granted in what he ordaineth?

Praise to the Lord, who doth prosper thy work and defend thee;  
surely his goodness and mercy shall daily attend thee:  
ponder anew  
what the Almighty can do,  
if to the end he befriend thee.

Praise to the Lord! O let all that is in me adore him!  
All that hath life and breath, come now with praises before him!

