



**Thursday Prayers
September 2022**

**Transformation – NOW!
Creation**

Opening prayer

If the Earth were only a few feet in diameter, floating a few feet above a field somewhere, people would come from everywhere to marvel at it. People would walk around it, marvelling at its big pools of water, its little pools and the water flowing between the pools. People would marvel at the bumps on it, and the holes in it, and they would marvel at the very thin layer of gas surrounding it and the water suspended in the gas. The people would marvel at all the creatures walking around the surface of the ball, and at the creatures in the water, The people would declare it as sacred because it was the only one, and they would protect it so that it would not be hurt. The ball would be the greatest wonder known, and people would come to behold it, to be healed, to gain knowledge, to know beauty and to wonder how it could be. People would come to love it, and defend it with their lives, because they would somehow know that their lives, their own roundness, could be nothing without it. If the Earth were only a few feet in diameter.

source unknown

For the beauty of the earth

sung by St Martin's Voices

For the beauty of the earth,
for the beauty of the skies,
for the love which from our birth
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:

Chorus

For the joy of human love,
brother, sister, parent, child,
friends on earth, and friends above,
for all gentle thoughts and mild:

Chorus

For each perfect gift of thine
to our race so freely given,
graces human and divine,
flowers of earth and buds of heaven:

Chorus

Folliott Sandford Pierpoint (1835-1917)

Bible Reading: Psalm 8 (The Living Bible)

O Lord our God, the majesty and glory of your name fills all the earth and overflows the heavens. You have taught the little children to praise you perfectly. May their example shame and silence your enemies!

When I look up into the night skies and see the work of your fingers—the moon and the stars you have made—I cannot understand how you can bother with mere puny man, to pay any attention to him!

And yet you have made him only a little lower than the angels¹ and placed a crown of glory and honour upon his head.

You have put him in charge of everything you made; everything is put under his authority: all sheep and oxen, and wild animals too, the birds and fish, and all the life in the sea. O Jehovah, our Lord, the majesty and glory of your name fills the earth.

Reflection

“Answer me when I call to you,
O my righteous God.
Give me relief from my distress;
be merciful to me and hear my prayer.”

How long, O men and women,
will you turn the glory of the earth into dangerous pollution?
How long will we love the delusion of consumerism
and seek the false gods of money and possessions?

Help us to remember that you have set apart the godly for yourself;
that you will hear us when we call to you.

In our exasperation and anxiety do not let us lose hope;
when we have quiet times in the day,
let us search our hearts and be silent.
Help us to live our lives sacrificially and to trust in the Lord.

Many are asking,
“What is the point? The earth is finished.
Who can save us now?”

“Let the light of your face shine upon us, O Lord.
You have filled my heart with greater joy
than when their grain and new wine abound.
I will lie down and sleep in peace,
for you alone, O Lord,
make me dwell in safety.”

written by Ruth Jarman <http://www.greenchristian.org.uk/archives/10>

All creatures of our God and King

sung by St Martin's Voices

*William Henry Draper (1855-1933)
based on Laudato sii, O me signore
St Francis of Assisi's Canticle of the Sun*

All creatures of our God and King
lift up your voice and with us sing
Alleluia, alleluia.

Thou burning sun with golden beam,
thou silver moon with softer gleam,
 *O praise him, O praise him,
 alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.*

Thou rushing wind that art so strong,
ye clouds that sail in heaven along,
 O praise him, alleluia.

Thou rising morn, in praise rejoice,
ye lights of evening, find a voice;

Chorus

Thou flowing water, pure and clear,
make music for thy Lord to hear,
Alleluia, alleluia.

Thou fire so masterful and bright,
that givest hearts both warmth and light:

Chorus

Dear mother earth, who day by day
unfoldest blessings on our way,
 O praise him, alleluia.

The flowers and fruits that in thee grow,
let them his glory also show:

Chorus

Let all things their Creator bless,
and worship him in humbleness;
 O praise him, alleluia.

Praise, praise the Father, praise the Son,
and praise the Spirit, Three in One;

Chorus

Prayers

O God,
We thank you for this earth, our home;
for the wide sky and the blessed sun,
for the ocean and streams,
for the towering hills and the whispering wind,
for the trees and green grass.

We thank you for our senses
by which we hear the songs of birds,
and see the splendour of fields of golden wheat,
and taste autumn's fruit,
rejoice in the feel of snow,
and smell the breath of spring flowers.

Grant us a heart opened wide to all this beauty;
and save us from being so blind
that we pass unseeing
when even the common thorn bush
is aflame with your glory.

For each new dawn is filled with infinite possibilities
for new beginnings and new discoveries.
Life is constantly changing and renewing itself.

In this new day of new beginnings with God,
all things are possible.
We are restored and renewed in a joyous awakening
to the wonder that our lives are and, yet, can be. Amen.

written by Walter Rauschenbusch (1861-1918)

Our Diocesan Mothers' Union Prayer

**Heavenly Father, as we meet
as members of Mothers' Union in Manchester
may we know your presence and hear your word.**

**Teach us how best to serve you, seeing not just the needs of
this diocese but those of the wider world.
Help us at all times to trust in you and seek to do your will.
Fill us with your spirit, encourage us, use us and bless us, that
we may have strength to follow your way.
We pray in sure hope and the assurance of your power.
Amen.**

O Lord my God

sung by St Martin's Voices

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!*

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

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

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

Stuart K Hine (1899-1989)

© 1953 Stuart K Hine/The Stuart Hine Trust/Published by kingswaysongs.com
www.kingswaysongs.com. Worldwide (excl. North & South America).

Used by permission.

Closing Commission and Prayer

May we always walk gently upon the Earth,
in right relationship,
nurtured by your love,
open to the wind of the Spirit,
taking only what we need,
always open to the needs of others,
making choices that bring wellbeing,
living with generosity,
striving for justice,
honouring all with reverence,
reconciling and peacemaking,
mindful of those who will come after,
recognising our proper place as part of your creation.

Grant us the strength and courage, Lord,
for such a radical transformation into your Kingdom.
Amen.

from Christian Aid and Christian Ecology Link.

Choral music: The Church of England St Martin in the Fields
Material: as stated
Theme music: Catherine Hilton
Theme image: Aarn Giri on Unsplash.com
Background image: from the New York public library on Unsplash.com
Readers: Karen Owen, Sandra Bradshaw, Ian Butterworth,
Yvonne Jennings, Jenni Beaumont, Tricia Stokes

CCLI: 5097385

**Thursday Prayers next month will be on
13th October - Harvest**