

written prayers

A Creation Communion

It has been a great privilege to meet Sylvia Walker who is a member of one of the churches local to the Sanctuary – St John’s, Ben Rhydding. One of the issues closest to her heart is environmental justice and she recently shared this beautiful communion liturgy with us. We liked it so much, we asked if she’d be happy for us to share it more widely so churches across the UK could use it - and she generously said yes.

Preparation

Leader: The Table of the Lord is ready;
Our Jesus waits to give His gifts.
So let us thank the Lord for all his blessings.

As children of our Creator God
We join with all creation,
And bless you, Lord, for the fruit of the land.
You have given the earth and all its wonders
For the benefit of all living things.

**And now we thank you for the wheat that grows,
And ready hands
To make our bread -
This is to be a symbol of your broken body,
Given for us.
May we, in *our* brokenness
Receive your life and bring nourishment to others.
We thank you for the grapes for harvest,
To make the wine -
This is to be a symbol of your precious life-blood
Shed so freely for each one of us.**

Leader: May we eat and drink deep of these -
Your gifts to us;
And may your abundant Life flow in us,
And through us to a hurting world.

For on the night before he died Jesus took bread,
gave thanks and broke it, and gave it to his disciples saying
“Take eat; this is my body.”
Then he took the cup, gave thanks and offered it to them,
and they all drank from it.
“This is my blood of the covenant which is poured out for many,”
he said to them.
“I tell you the truth, I will not drink again of the fruit of the vine
until that day when I drink it anew in the Kingdom of God.”

All: **In this Bread and Wine**
We see the hope of that Kingdom -
The renewing of all Creation;
And we wait, in anticipation,
For all things to be made new.
In this Bread, and in this Wine you call us
Into a new, redeemed relationship
With yourself and all of your creation.
And we shall eat;
We shall drink;
And we are thankful.

The Peace

Leader: At the birth of Jesus the angels sang,
Glory to God in the highest
And peace on earth.
Christ is our peace,
And speaks peace to the earth.
The peace of our Creator Lord
be always with you....

All: **And also with you.**

Invitation

Leader: Come now to the Table of the Lord.
All is prepared.
" I am the bread of life," says the Lord
"My flesh I give for the life of the world
Come and eat."
This is the wine of the New Covenant between us.
Come and drink.
For whoever of you eats my flesh and drinks my blood
Will remain in me,
And I in him".

Communion is received

Prayer after Communion

Leader: Our God, You have blessed us, and fed us
With your Body and Blood – your very life force.
By your Holy Spirit.
You have come close to us,
And we have come close to you
In this precious feast,
Where Heaven and earth meet,

All: **And so, with all the realm of Nature –**
The growing and creeping things;
The running and leaping things;

**The flying and the swimming things,
We proclaim your glory
Which reaches to the heavens -
Holding all in sovereign love and care.**

Leader: Send us out, nourished and refreshed,
To work in partnership with you,
Bringing your resurrection message
To all the inhabitants of this world,
In earth, and sea and sky.

**All: Give us vision and new commitment
To take up the challenges to which you call us;
That in company with all created things
We may sing the joy, the beauty and the glory
That is Creation's song.
Amen.**

Closing Prayer

Leader: As we prepare to leave
and embrace the challenges
of our lives and our world,
let us ask for God's blessing.
May He bless us with wisdom
to care for the earth.
And may the Lord who established the dance of creation,
who marvelled at the lilies of the field,
who transforms chaos to order,
lead us to transform our lives and the Church
to reflect God's glory in creation.

All: Amen

Let us go in the name of Christ, to be witnesses of hope - **Amen**