

## **Order of service:**

### **Call to worship: Psalm 19:1 The heavens are telling the glory of God!**

Prayer: Dear Lord, help us to remember that you are our creator found in the world around us, You are above us and beneath us, you are in the air; you are in the earth; You are beside us, you are within us. You have made your home on earth and sent your son Jesus Christ to be with us. Ignite within us a love for you in all things, there is no plant in the ground that does not reflect your beauty, there is no life in the sea that does not magnify your goodness. There is no bird on the wing, there is no star in the sky, there is nothing beneath the sun that does not radiate your blessing. Help us to feel your presence all around, guiding us to care for the creation we see.

We ask this in the name of God our Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Amen

Hymn: All things bright and Beautiful

- *Refrain:*  
All things bright and beautiful,  
All creatures great and small,  
All things wise and wonderful:  
The Lord God made them all.
- 2. Each little flower that opens,  
Each little bird that sings,  
He made their glowing colours,  
He made their tiny wings.
- 3. The purple-headed mountains,  
The river running by,  
The sunset and the morning  
That brightens up the sky.
- 4. The cold wind in the winter,  
The pleasant summer sun,  
The ripe fruits in the garden,  
He made them everyone.
- 5. The tall trees in the greenwood,  
The meadows where we play,  
The rushes by the water,  
To gather every day.
- 6. He gave us eyes to see them,  
And lips that we might tell  
How great is God Almighty,  
Who has made all things well.

Bible Reading:

Geneses 1-2v3 (NCV Youth Bible)

### *The beginning of the world*

In the beginning God created the sky and the earth. The earth was empty and had no form. Darkness covered the ocean, and God's spirit was moving over the water. Then God said, 'Let there be light', and there was light. God saw that the light was good, so divided the light from the darkness. God named the light 'day' and the darkness 'night'. Evening passed, and morning came. This was the first day.

Then God said, 'Let there be something to divide the water in two.' So, God made the air and placed some of the water above the air and some below it. God named the air 'Sky'. Evening passed and morning came. That was the second day. Then God said, 'Let the water under the sky be gathered together so the dry land will appear.' And it happened. God named the dry land 'earth' and the water that was gathered together 'seas', God saw that this was good. Then God said 'Let the earth produce plants – some to make grain for seeds and others to make fruits with seeds in them. Every seed will produce more of its own kind of plant'. And it happened. The earth produced plants with grain for seeds, and trees that made fruits with seeds in them. Each seed grew its own kind of plant. God saw that all this was good. Evening passed, and morning came. That was the third day.

Then God said, 'Let there be lights in the sky to separate day from night. These lights will be used for signs, seasons, days and years. They will be in the sky to give light to the earth.' And it happened. So God made the two larger lights, He made the brighter light to rule the day and the smaller light to rule the night. He also made the stars. God put all these in the sky to shine on the earth, to rule over the day and over the night. God saw that all these things were good. Evening passed, and morning came. This was the fourth day. Then God said, 'Let the water be filled with living things, and let birds fly in the air above the earth.' So, God created the large sea animals and every living thing that moves in the sea. He also made every bird that flies God saw that this was good. Evening passed, and morning came. That was the end of the fifth day. Then God said, 'Let the earth be filled with animals, tame animals and small crawling animals and wild animals.' And it happened and God saw that it was good.

Then God said, 'Let us make human beings in our image and likeness. And let them rule over the fish in the sea, the birds in the sky, over all the animals over the earth.' God looked at everything he had made and it was good. Evening passed, and morning came. This was the sixth day. So the sky, the earth, and all that filled them were finished. By the seventh day God finished the work he had been doing, so he rested. God blessed the seventh day and made it a holy day as he rested from all the work he had done in creating the world.

### Matthew 6: 25-34 **Don't Worry**

**So I tell you, don't worry about the food or drink you need to live, or the clothes you need for your body. Life is more than food, and the body is more than clothes. Look at the birds in the air. They don't plant or harvest or store food in barns, but your heavenly Father feeds them. And you know that you**

**are worth much more than birds. You cannot add any time to your life by worrying about it.**

**And why worry about clothes? Look at how the Lilies in the field grow. They don't work or make clothes themselves. But I tell you that even Solomon with his riches was not dressed as beautifully as one of these flowers. God clothes the grass in the field, which is alive today but tomorrow it is thrown into the fire. So you can be even more sure that God will clothe you. Don't have so little faith! Don't worry and say, 'What will we eat?' or 'What will we drink?' or 'What will we wear?' The people who don't know God keep trying to get these things, and your Father in heaven knows you need them. The thing you should want most is God's kingdom and doing what God wants. Then all these other things you need will be given to you. So, don't worry about tomorrow because tomorrow will have its own worries. Each day has enough troubles of its own.**

**Intro:** This year we celebrate our 25<sup>th</sup> year of holiday club, which is amazing, over the years our great team of volunteers some of which have been with us from the very start. During this time, we have adapted and changed to suit the needs of the children, alongside our team however some things we have had no control over such as the weather. This year the team has once again rallied knowing we cannot meet in the way we would choose to; Holiday club 2020 has gone on-line via our church website for the first time.

While it is sad, we cannot meet our families in person in our usual way they are being supported with bags of love -craft essentials- to help with our sessions of fun. The fact we are an online holiday club means we can meet up with some our families who have moved away and hopefully meet some new ones too. Our theme for this year is 'God's world matters', an important message at any time but perhaps even more now.

**Message:**

When was the last time you went Wow!

Was it when you went on holiday, listened to your favourite music or saw something you had not seen before? We don't all go wow at the same things. Some people are obsessed with the latest gadgets, or a certain T V programme, while these things may not be important to other people.

Some things are impressive like facts; did you know there are more stars in the universe than there are grains of sand on our planet, or that although it is only five centimetres long a single golden poison frog has enough poison on its skin to kill ten adults or that the human brain has enough memory to hold three million hours of TV. The most impressive things are those you can linger over; you can enjoy, like the incredible explosion of colour as the sun sets in a clear sky or maybe a favourite meal enjoyed with family and friends maybe this is something you are looking forward to.

The reading we have heard from Genesis should make us all go wow! Genesis is the very first book in the Bible and was written by Moses at a time when God's people were on a very long journey which lasted forty years. During this time, they felt uncertain of the changes around them, their routines had had to alter and adapt, even their places of worship had changed, and they asked many questions. Such as, 'How long will this last', 'What will happen to us?' 'How long do we have to do things this way, I preferred the old routine' (sound familiar). It also zooms in on the relationship God had with his people and they had with him over the generations.

Our belief in a creator God can place us under fire as Christians from other people who laugh at the idea of an all creating God which for some is unscientific, misguided or simply crackers. Even within Christian groups how we choose to interpret all God did can become a debate of either God created as Genesis tell us in seven days or that God took billions and billions of years. Let's look to our Bibles the story of creation was not written to be a science textbook but rather that God created everything.

First God created by the power of his word V1 reminds us 'In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth'. This is perhaps one of the biggest understatements ever. Were used to the world being here, existing why before us and we forget how big a thing it is that the world is here in the first place.

In the beginning the world had no form, it was dark there was nothing think empty space you may be able to look at one in your home right now, but what's amazing is that the space you are looking at isn't empty it is full of air, light and heat no space is empty. God was there right at the beginning and something was about to happen- and something does- God speaks and the universe comes into being. Many times, in this passage we read God saw, and he was pleased. God said and he created lets just pause and think what this means, who can create from nothing? At the very least those of us who would say we are creative cannot do much without moving I need my hands to help stick our holiday club crafts together. God only needed to speak 'Let there be light', and there was he went on to command the water to separate into sea and sky, he brought land into being and placed plants and trees on it and earth became lush and green. God then places light in the heavens and separated day and night, and the heart of the sun began to burn.

God then placed birds in the air and fish into the seas and living creatures of all kinds roamed on the land and we have billions of living things that still fascinate us today. Then God made people we should be awestruck, overwhelmed and gobsmacked by God's power.

The universe exists because God spoke. God is so powerful, he doesn't just draw a quick sketch of what he wants he creates every single detail of how it works, how it lives and how it moves. That includes us all our cells, the way we feel the way we think every ability and skill now that's awesome. If God can command these things and keep them going then who are we compared to him? Who are we to decide what happens and make rules that harm the world who are we to tell God what's going to happen? Instead of trying to be masters of our own universe shouldn't we be asking God, searching the answers through his word and speaking through prayer and

reflection to take the right path instead of chopping down forests and destroying animals habitats, poisoning the oceans and rivers with chemicals and plastic. Are we looking after what we have been asked too and are we, in a good relationship with God?

God didn't just create with power he created with purpose and order. We see this in Genesis God has six days working and on each day he made a different thing every day. Each day has an evening and a morning at the end of every day God stops and each morning he begins again and so each day builds on the last. God made us in his image to reflect him in a way no other creation can he made us and wants us to know him as we know our family and friends.

When God is finished, he rests. God sits back and enjoys his creation. God rests what might this mean? Isaiah chp, 40 says God is the everlasting God who doesn't get tired is this it project over God ,got bored moved on- we know this is not true as God is constantly at work through the rest of the Bible and the rest of history. God has not ticked things of the ever long to do list and left the office and gone home early. So, what is God doing?

Look again at the passage Ch1 V31 the last thing God does before he rests is, he looks at all he has made a declares it to be very good. God sits back not to have a snooze but to enjoy the finished job and spend time looking at it all. May be this year has given us some time to pause and enjoy what's around us more clearly, this year more people commented on the dawn chorus or simply hearing birdsong for the first time. Perhaps this is the first time in a very long while our towns, cities and skies have been quiet and we have been allowed a reminder of nature as never before, and it has given us a sense of peace and calmness in the middle of our worry and confusion. As our Gospel message today reminds us worry is not a good quality and natures glory cannot be improved upon even though it is only with us a very short time and changing with each season. We should make time in our lives to stop look around us and give thanks, time away from the many distractions of life so that we can enjoy what God made and enjoy time with God our families and friends including our church family and holiday club family too.

There are parts of our world that are still difficult and painful and if we can help with these parts, we should but we can also enjoy the beauty too. The smell of flowers the roar of the sea or a delicious meal when we are absolutely starving. We're given the promise as Christians that one day the world will be made completely new again. A world that will be everything God has made it to be and we need to continue to place our trust in God, in all aspects of our lives loving him as he loves us all.

So next time you see something that makes you go Wow! Remember how it got there in the first place and that God wants you to enjoy it. **Amen**

### **Reflection:**

In this reflection we are going to consider a way that you might pray with nature, a prayer of noticing and of imagination.

To help when doing this find a piece of nature to contemplate. This might be a pot plant, a bunch of flowers, something in your garden (if you have one) the contents of a window box or plant hanger, a bird feeder. It may be something you see on your walk (such as a dandelion growing in a crack in the pavement), a shell, pinecone, or any other natural thing. You might take it home or take a photo of it. Alternatively, you might choose to pray with something you see online, e.g. on social media such as a photo or video of wildlife, or the picture here.

In this reflection just use what is helpful and leave the rest. If your attention strays, quietly return your thinking to the piece of nature, you are looking at. Take your time and be kind to yourself.

Take the piece of nature you have selected to pray with and find a space where you can be quiet and get comfortable. Do whatever helps to become still and quiet. Gaze on your piece of nature and let go of other things around it. Take time over this.

Where does your eye first focus when you look at it?  
Then where does your eye naturally travel to?

Take in the whole of the piece of nature, notice colours, forms, textures, patterns, light, shade, contrasts, movement ...

What words or phrases would you use to describe what you see?

What does your piece of nature smell of? Or, if sitting with a photo, can you imagine a smell?

Does your piece of nature have a sound? Can you imagine a sound?

If possible, touch it. If you can't, a memory might come to mind of touching, or being touched by, nature? Notice this memory.

Looking at your piece of nature what do you find most peaceful and restful?

Imagine this piece of nature can speak, listen to it. What does it say to you?

Listen to God and rest in God's loving presence.

**Amen**

***Later review this time of prayer.***

After your time of prayer, reflect on your prayer, maybe over a cup of tea, using the questions below if they are helpful:

What is staying with me as I reflect on my prayer?  
What do I want to give thanks for?

How am I drawn to respond to God?  
Might I write, draw or make something?

**Blessing:**

May the Lord bless you and keep you,  
make his face to shine upon you,  
and be gracious to you.

The Lord turn his face  
toward you and give you peace.

**Amen**

**Makaton version of the Blessing** <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=va048-XxFTI>