

The Psalm of Creation



¶ Gathering

Nigel Grace, mercy and peace
from God our Father
and the Lord Jesus Christ be with you.
All **And also with you.**

Words of welcome and introduction are said.

The Psalm of Creation – Psalm 104

Read by Stacy Fox-Manning and Andrew Kyle

Andrew ¹ Bless the Lord, O my soul.
O Lord my God, how excellent is your greatness!

Stacy ² You are clothed with majesty and honour,
wrapped in light as in a garment.

Andrew ³ You spread out the heavens like a curtain
and lay the beams of your dwelling place in the waters above.

Stacy ⁴ You make the clouds your chariot
and ride on the wings of the wind.

Andrew ⁵ You make the winds your messengers
and flames of fire your servants.

Stacy ⁶ You laid the foundations of the earth,
that it never should move at any time.

Andrew ⁷ You covered it with the deep like a garment;
the waters stood high above the hills.

Stacy ⁸ At your rebuke they fled;
at the voice of your thunder they hastened away.

Andrew ⁹ They rose up to the hills and flowed down to the valleys beneath,
to the place which you had appointed for them.

Stacy ¹⁰ You have set them their bounds that they should not pass,
nor turn again to cover the earth.

Hymn

Guide me, O thou great Redeemer,
pilgrim through this barren land;
I am weak, but thou art mighty;
hold me with thy powerful hand:
bread of heaven,
feed me now and evermore.

Open now the crystal fountain
whence the healing stream doth flow;
let the fiery cloudy pillar
lead me all my journey through:
strong deliverer,
be thou still my strength and shield.

When I tread the verge of Jordan,
bid my anxious fears subside;
death of death, and hell's destruction,
land me safe on Canaan's side:
songs and praises
I will ever give to thee.

Welsh, William Williams, trans Peter & William Williams

Opening Prayer

All **Almighty God,
to whom all hearts are open,
all desires known,
and from whom no secrets are hidden:
cleanse the thoughts of our hearts
by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit,
that we may perfectly love you,
and worthily magnify your holy name;
through Christ our Lord.
Amen.**

¶ Word

The Psalm of Creation – Psalm 104

Read by Stacy Fox-Manning and Andrew Kyle

- Andrew 11 You send the springs into the brooks,
which run among the hills.
- Stacy 12 They give drink to every beast of the field,
and the wild asses quench their thirst.
- Andrew 13 Beside them the birds of the air make their nests
and sing among the branches.
- Stacy 14 You water the hills from your dwelling on high;
the earth is filled with the fruit of your works.
- Andrew 15 You make grass to grow for the cattle
and plants to meet our needs,
- Stacy 16 Bringing forth food from the earth
and wine to gladden our hearts,
- Andrew 17 Oil to give us a cheerful countenance
and bread to strengthen our hearts.
- Stacy 18 The trees of the Lord are full of sap,
the cedars of Lebanon which he planted,
- Andrew 19 In which the birds build their nests,
while the fir trees are a dwelling for the stork.
- Stacy 20 The mountains are a refuge for the wild goats
and the stony cliffs for the conies.

Stewardship of the Earth

Canon Nigel Ashworth

Gospel Reading *read by Sarah Johnstone*

Sarah
All

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew.
Glory to you, O Lord.

Matthew 18.21-35

²¹ Peter came and said to Jesus, 'Lord, if another member of the church sins against me, how often should I forgive? As many as seven times?' ²² Jesus said to him, 'Not seven times, but, I tell you, seventy-seven times.'

²³ For this reason the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his slaves. ²⁴ When he began the reckoning, one who owed him ten thousand talents was brought to him; ²⁵ and, as he could not pay, his lord ordered him to be sold, together with his wife and children and all his possessions, and payment to be made. ²⁶ So the slave fell on his knees before him, saying, "Have patience with me, and I will pay you everything."²⁷ And out of pity for him, the lord of that slave released him and forgave him the debt.

²⁸ But that same slave, as he went out, came upon one of his fellow-slaves who owed him a hundred denarii; and seizing him by the throat, he said, "Pay what you owe." ²⁹ Then his fellow-slave fell down and pleaded with him, "Have patience with me, and I will pay you."³⁰ But he refused; then he went and threw him into prison until he would pay the debt.

³¹ When his fellow-slaves saw what had happened, they were greatly distressed, and they went and reported to their lord all that had taken place. ³² Then his lord summoned him and said to him, "You wicked slave! I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me. ³³ Should you not have had mercy on your fellow-slave, as I had mercy on you?" ³⁴ And in anger his lord handed him over to be tortured until he would pay his entire debt. ³⁵ So my heavenly Father will also do to every one of you, if you do not forgive your brother or sister from your heart.'

Sarah
All

This is the gospel of the Lord.
Praise to you, O Christ.

A Debt to be Paid? – Or to be Forgiven?

Canon Nigel Ashworth

¶ Prayer

Responding in Faith and Love

The following 'Kyrie' form of prayer is said

Sydwell We give thanks for the wonders of creation,
and confess our part in not caring for what we have been given.

Sydwell You delight in creation,
its colour and diversity;
yet we have misused the earth
and plundered its resources for our own selfish ends.
Lord, have mercy.

All **Lord, have mercy.**

Sydwell You have brought order out of chaos,
light in darkness, good out of evil,
but we have preferred darkness
in words and deeds which dishonour your holy name.
Christ, have mercy.

All **Christ, have mercy.**

Sydwell You have showered us with blessings,
but we have been grudging towards others
and lacking in generosity in word and deed.
Lord, have mercy,

All **Lord, have mercy.**

Sydwell The Lord have mercy on us,
forgive us our sins,
heal us by his Spirit,
and bring us to everlasting life
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

All **Amen.**

The Psalm of Creation – Psalm 104

Read by Stacy Fox-Manning and Andrew Kyle

- Andrew 21 You appointed the moon to mark the seasons,
and the sun knows the time for its setting.
- Stacy 22 You make darkness that it may be night,
in which all the beasts of the forest creep forth.
- Andrew 23 The lions roar for their prey
and seek their food from God.
- Stacy 24 The sun rises and they are gone
to lay themselves down in their dens.
- Andrew 25 People go forth to their work
and to their labour until the evening.
- Stacy 26 O Lord, how manifold are your works!
In wisdom you have made them all;
the earth is full of your creatures.
- Andrew 27 There is the sea, spread far and wide,
and there move creatures beyond number, both small and great.
- Stacy 28 There go the ships, and there is that Leviathan
which you have made to play in the deep.
- Andrew 29 All of these look to you
to give them their food in due season.
- Stacy 30 When you give it them, they gather it;
you open your hand and they are filled with good.
- Andrew 31 When you hide your face they are troubled;
when you take away their breath,
they die and return again to the dust.
- Stacy 32 When you send forth your Spirit, they are created,
and you renew the face of the earth.

Intercession and Lord's Prayer

*Sydwel leads us in prayer for the care and stewardship of Creation.
Our intercession is brought together in the words of the Lord's
Prayer.*

All

**Our Father who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name,
thy kingdom come;
thy will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our trespasses
as we forgive those
who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation;
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom,
the power, and the glory
for ever and ever.
Amen.**

The Peace

Nigel introduces the Peace and says

Nigel
All

The peace of the Lord be always with you.
And also with you.

All are invited to share the peace together.

¶ Ending

Hymn

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:

Lord of all...

For the joy of human love,
brother, sister, parent, child,
friends on earth and friends above,
pleasures pure and undefiled:

Lord of all...

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

Lord of all...

For thy church which evermore
lifteth holy hands above,
offering up on every shore
her pure sacrifice of love:

Lord of all...

F S Pierpoint

The Psalm of Creation – Psalm 104

Read by Stacy Fox-Manning and Andrew Kyle

Andrew ³³ May the glory of the Lord endure for ever;
may the Lord rejoice in his works;

Stacy ³⁴ He looks on the earth and it trembles;
he touches the mountains and they smoke.

Andrew ³⁵ I will sing to the Lord as long as I live;
I will make music to my God while I have my being.

Stacy ³⁶ So shall my song please him
while I rejoice in the Lord.

Andrew ³⁷ Let sinners be consumed out of the earth
and the wicked be no more.
Bless the Lord, O my soul.
Alleluia.

Jubilate Choir of St Ann's

*The choir have prepared the Jubilate in B Flat
by Charles Villiers Stanford.*

¹ O be joyful in the Lord, all ye lands;
serve the Lord with gladness,
and come before his presence with a song.

² Be ye sure that the Lord he is God;
it is he that hath made us, and not we ourselves;
we are his people, and the sheep of his pasture.

³ O go your way into his gates with thanksgiving,
and into his courts with praise:
be thankful unto him,
and speak good of his Name.

⁴ For the Lord is gracious; his mercy is everlasting:
and his truth endureth from generation to generation.

Psalm 100

The Blessing

Sydwell May God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,
who is the source of all goodness and growth,
pour his blessings upon all things created,
and upon you his children;
and the blessing of God almighty,
the Father, the Son,
and the Holy Spirit
be amongst you
and remain with you always.

All **Amen.**

Voluntary played by Simon Passmore on the piano
Prelude and Fugue in B – JS Bach
*Please come back after the music
to greet other worshippers.*

