

St Chad's Church, Pattingham with Patshull
Worship on the Web
Rogation Sunday – 17 May 2020



An Order of Service

(for those who wish to download a hard copy to use alongside our Worship on the Web)

This morning's service celebrates Rogation Sunday; this is an ancient part of both the agricultural year and the church calendar. Traditionally it is a time for praying for God's blessing on the land and on the growing crops; on the labour and skill of our farmers; and for marking the boundaries of our parishes....

Let's begin by singing together our opening hymn – Rejoice, O Land.

**Rejoice, O land, in God thy might,
His will obey, Him serve aright;
For Thee the saints uplift their voice:
Fear not, O land, in God rejoice.**

**Glad shalt thou be, with blessing crowned,
With joy and peace thou shalt abound;
Yea, Love with thee shall make His home
Until thou see God's kingdom come.**

**He shall forgive thy sins untold:
Remember thou His love of old;
Walk in His way, His word adore,
And keep His truth for evermore.**

Introduction

The earth brought forth vegetation, plants yielding seed according to their own kinds, and trees bearing fruit in which is their seed, each according to their kind. And God saw that it was good.
Genesis 1:12

Opening Prayer

A prayer of confession

**Lord, your works are wonderful,
in wisdom you have made them all.
Forgive us for the madness
that abuses the earth for short term ends,
and give us the wisdom to cherish and share
with daring and delight
the abundant gifts of our fragile planet. Amen**

(Angela Ashwin)

The assurance of God's forgiveness

May the God of love bring you back to himself,
forgive your sins and assure you of his eternal love
in Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

Thanksgiving for the gift of creation

For the gift of creation:
For the enormous and the tiny,
For refreshment for a challenge,
For gentle beauty, for fierce beauty,
For the variety of place and season,
For fruitfulness,
We praise you, O Lord.

For the inheritance in creation, from generations past:
For landscape,
For craft and skill,
For breed and variety in livestock and crops,
For wildlife untamed,
For fertility maintained,
We praise you, O Lord.

For our existence in creation:
For air,
For space,
For moisture,
For food,
We praise you, O Lord.

For those who represent us all in tending creation:
For gardeners,
For foresters,
For farmers,
We praise you, O Lord.

For Christ's blessing of bread,
For revealing the divine presence in earthly things,
We praise you, O Lord.

(The Arthur Rank Centre)

Collect

Holy God, Creator, Sustainer and Renewer of life, grant that, secure in your goodness in the past, and rejoicing that you meet our needs in the present, we may work and pray for the coming of your future kingdom, That kingdom which is all peace and prosperity, justice and joy; through Jesus Christ, who lived and died and was raised to Life that all may share. **Amen.**

The Reading

David Sampson

Jesus began to teach them many things in parables and in his teaching he said to them, "Listen, a sower went out to sow, And as he sowed some seed fell on the path, and the birds came and ate it up. Other seed fell on rocky ground, where it did not have much soil, and it sprang up quickly, since it had no depth of soil. And when the sun rose, it was scorched; and since it had no root, it withered away. Other seed fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up and choked it and yielded no grain. Other seed fell into good soil and brought forth grain, growing up and increasing and yielding thirty to sixty and a hundredfold" And he said, "Let anyone who has ears to hear, listen".

Hymn

1 Lord, for the years your love has kept and guided,
urged and inspired us, cheered us on our way,
sought us and saved us, pardoned and provided:
Lord of the years, we bring our thanks today.

2 Lord, for that word, the word of life which fires us,
speaks to our hearts and sets our souls ablaze,
teaches and trains, rebukes us and inspires us:
Lord of the word, receive Your people's praise.

3 Lord, for our land in this our generation,
spirits oppressed by pleasure, wealth and care:
for young and old, for commonwealth and nation,
Lord of our land, be pleased to hear our prayer.

4 Lord, for our world when we disown and doubt him,
loveless in strength, and comfortless in pain,
hungry and helpless, lost indeed without him:
Lord of the world, we pray that Christ may reign.

5 Lord for ourselves; in living power remake us -
self on the cross and Christ upon the throne,
past put behind us, for the future take us:
Lord of our lives, to live for Christ alone.

Versicles and Responses

V: The heavens are yours and the earth is yours also

R: You have laid the foundations of the round world and all that is in it.

V: Blessed are the people that can rejoice in you

R: They shall walk in the light of your countenance

V: Glory to the Father and to the son and to the Holy Spirit

**R: As it was in the beginning is now and ever shall be, world without end
Amen.**

We pray for the Church and particularly for this church and community, and for its life and ministry as part of this Benefice of Pattingham with Patshull. (Ken)

V: Lord in your mercy

R: Hear our Prayer

The Lord's Prayer

Rejoicing in our new creation, as our Saviour taught us, so we pray.

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name.

Your kingdom come, your will be done
on earth as in heaven.

Give us today our daily bread.

Forgive us our sins,
as we forgive those who sin against us.

Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil
For the kingdom, the power and the glory are yours,
now and for ever. Amen.

Interviews

- 1. A Farmer – John Evans**
- 2. An Accountant - Barbara Dias**
- 3. A Forrester/trainer – Robert Colin-Stokes**

So there are just three people who all, in their own ways, help to sustain our daily life and our daily bread. And in different ways they represent our human endeavour which is always dependent on God's grace for its achievements and through which he invites us to join with him in the great work of Creation. Praise be to God who grants us the victory.

Many of the words of our service this morning are taken from 'Germinate', the Worship section of the Arthur Rank Centre, based at the National Agricultural Showground, Stoneleigh. In this year when sadly many of our agricultural shows will be cancelled, but when we have become even more aware of how much we depend on our farmers and all who work in the food supply and distribution chain, let us join together in an act of covenant, one with another, acknowledging our interdependence as one world, one creation.

A Reconciling Covenant

Brothers and sisters, we covenant today with one another; With every living creature
and all on which we depend.

With all that is on the earth,
and with the earth itself.
With all that live in the waters
and with the waters themselves.

With all the creatures of the air,
and with the air itself.

With all that is warm with life
and with life itself.

We commit ourselves today to put away all selfishness and greed and embrace one another in love and joy and peace.

Amen

The Peace of the Lord be always with you.

The Blessing

On our heads and our houses,
the blessing of God;
On our coming and going,
The peace of God;
In our life and believing
the love of God;
At our end and new beginning,
the arms of God to welcome us and bring us home. **Amen**

(John Bell)

So in conclusion we join in singing – We plough the fields and scatter...

1 We plough the fields and scatter
the good seed on the land,
but it is fed and watered
by God's almighty hand;
he sends the snow in winter,
the warmth to swell the grain,
the breezes and the sunshine
and soft refreshing rain.
*All good gifts around us
are sent from heaven above,
then thank the Lord, O thank the Lord
for all his love.*

2 He only is the maker
of all things near and far;
he paints the wayside flower,
he lights the evening star;
the wind and waves obey him,
by him the birds are fed;
much more to us his children,
he gives our daily bread.
*All good gifts around us
are sent from heaven above,
then thank the Lord, O thank the Lord
for all his love.*

3 We thank thee, then, O Father,
for all things bright and good,
the seed-time and the harvest,
our life, our health, our food:
accept the gifts we offer
for all your love imparts;
and that which you most welcome,
our humble, thankful hearts.
*All good gifts around us
are sent from heaven above,
then thank the Lord, O thank the Lord
for all his love.*

Thank you for worshipping with us this Sunday morning – or indeed whenever you choose to view this service.
We now invite you to join in our online fellowship by sharing in a virtual cup of tea or coffee as we look forward to the day when we can return to church and be with one another as we come before God.

*As always we thank Mike Richards for his technical assistance behind the scenes;
and to Greg Lewin and the (augmented) Choir for our music.*