

# *Welcome to Holy Hermits Online Worship*

*16th Sunday after Pentecost*

*Week 24 in Ordinary Time*

*2nd Sunday in the Season of Creation*

*A home for all?*

*Renewing the Oikos of God*

*Happy Birthday Holy Hermits Online!*

# The Greeting

We gather in the name of God, Creator, Redeemer, and  
Sustainer of the Earth and all its creatures!  
Praise be to the Holy Trinity!

God is sound and life, Creator of the Universe,  
Source of all life, whom the angels sing; wondrous  
Light of all mysteries known or unknown to humankind,  
and life that lives in all.

(Hildegard of Bingen, 13th Century)

The heavens declare the glory of God.  
The firmament proclaims God's handiwork.  
The plants and trees show God's presence.  
Let us join with creation in praising God.

God of all creation, who moves and inspires us through  
every time and season,  
we bless you and praise you for the gift of life in  
your good, created world.

# Gathering Invitation and Prayer

Come to worship,  
to be comforted and disturbed,  
challenged from our complacency,  
but also offered forgiveness  
and the hope of eternal life.  
Come to Jesus, prophet, priest and king.

*All:* Creative God, you called us into your kingdom,  
and adopted us as your children.

Redeeming Saviour, you showed us how to be servants,  
denying ourselves to serve others.

Sustaining Spirit, you give us strength to take up our cross  
in the service of the kingdom of God.

Teach us to serve others,  
and in doing so, to serve you.

Amen.

## Sentence

LA: Those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for the sake of the gospel will save it. **Mark 8.35**



# Centering Prayer

Lord, you walked with your disciples from village to village.  
And on the way you talked to them about many things.  
**The whole package.**

Some things were not easy to hear or to understand.  
We meet you here today, Lord, to hear these things too.  
**The whole package.**

You don't call us to sit doing nothing.  
You want us to be on the move:  
taking risks to change our world and save our lives.  
Help us, then, to draw close to you,  
to be ready to listen. Then to act.  
**The whole package.**  
**Amen.**

# *Prayer of Adoration*

Most merciful and gracious God,  
we offer you our heartfelt love and praise  
because your Son, Jesus Christ,  
was willing to risk everything for the whole world.

Even for us.

We come to worship you,  
earnestly seeking your will for us -  
however risky that might be, you are worth it.

**Amen.**



# Hymn- Lord of the Dance

<https://youtu.be/7mgvzwXTpM4>

Curated by Vanessa

# Preparing for Confession

'Who is Jesus?'

For the times we have been asked this question, and have struggled to give an answer:

**Forgive us, Lord, and give us your words to speak.**

For the times we have been ashamed to acknowledge you:

**Forgive us, Lord, and grant us courage.**

For the times we considered only human concerns, and not God's:

**Forgive us, Lord, and widen our horizons.**

For the times we saw opportunities to take risks for God but looked the other way through fear or indecision:

**Forgive us, Lord, and build up our confidence in you.**

For the times we only take the chocolates we like out of your box:

**Forgive us, Lord, and make us whole, ready to do your good will. Amen.**

# *Introduction to Confession*

Let us confess our sin against God and God's creation.



**All:** Holy and merciful God, we confess that we have failed to honour you by rightly claiming our kinship with all your creatures.

We have walked heavily on your earth, overused and wasted its resources, taken for granted its beauty and abundance, and treated its inhabitants unjustly, holding future generations hostage to our greed.

Have mercy on us and forgive us our sin.

Renew in us the resolve to keep and conserve your earth as you desire and intend, with grateful and compassionate hearts,  
through your Son, our Savior Jesus Christ. Amen.

# *The Absolution*

Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through the grace of Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life. **Amen.**



## Collect Prayer

God of mercy,  
help us to forgive as you have forgiven us,  
to trust you, even when hope is failing,  
and to take up our cross daily  
and follow you in your redeeming work;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord,  
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

A stylized illustration of a child looking up at a large, colorful, abstract shape in a dreamlike landscape with rolling hills and a rainbow. The scene is composed of soft, rounded shapes in shades of yellow, purple, and blue. A child's silhouette is in the foreground, looking up at a large, multi-colored, abstract shape that resembles a giant hand or a large object. A rainbow arches across the middle ground. The overall mood is whimsical and imaginative.

# *Kids' Time*

## The 1<sup>st</sup> Reading is from the book of Proverbs 1.20-33

<sup>20</sup> Wisdom cries out in the street;  
in the squares she raises her voice.

<sup>21</sup> At the busiest corner she cries out;  
at the entrance of the city gates she speaks:

<sup>22</sup> 'How long, O simple ones, will you love being simple?  
How long will scoffers delight in their scoffing  
and fools hate knowledge?

<sup>23</sup> Give heed to my reproof;  
I will pour out my thoughts to you;  
I will make my words known to you.

<sup>24</sup> Because I have called and you refused,  
have stretched out my hand and no one heeded,

<sup>25</sup> and because you have ignored all my counsel  
and would have none of my reproof,

<sup>26</sup> I also will laugh at your calamity;  
I will mock when panic strikes you,

<sup>27</sup> when panic strikes you like a storm,  
and your calamity comes like a whirlwind,  
when distress and anguish come upon you.

28 Then they will call upon me, but I will not answer;  
they will seek me diligently, but will not find me.  
29 Because they hated knowledge  
and did not choose the fear of the Lord ,  
30 would have none of my counsel,  
and despised all my reproof,  
31 therefore they shall eat the fruit of their way  
and be sated with their own devices.  
32 For waywardness kills the simple,  
and the complacency of fools destroys them;  
33 but those who listen to me will be secure  
and will live at ease, without dread of disaster.'

For the word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

## Psalm 19

<sup>1</sup> The heavens declare the glory of God:  
and the firmament proclaims his handiwork;

**<sup>2</sup> *One day tells it to another:  
and night to night communicates knowledge.***

<sup>3</sup> There is no speech or language:  
nor are their voices heard;

**<sup>4</sup> *Yet their sound has gone out through all the world:  
and their words to the ends of the earth.***

<sup>5</sup> There he has pitched a tent for the sun:  
which comes out as a bridegroom from his chamber,  
and rejoices like a strong man to run his course.

**<sup>6</sup> *Its rising is at one end of the heavens,  
and its circuit to their farthest bound:  
and nothing is hidden from its heat.***

7 The law of the Lord is perfect, reviving the soul:  
the command of the Lord is true,  
and makes wise the simple.

***8 The precepts of the Lord are right,  
and rejoice the heart:  
the commandment of the Lord is pure,  
and gives light to the eyes.***

9 The fear of the Lord is clean, and endures for ever:  
the judgements of the Lord are unchanging,  
and righteous every one.

***10 More to be desired are they than gold,  
even much fine gold:  
sweeter also than honey,  
than the honey that drips from the comb.***

11 Moreover, by them is your servant taught:  
and in keeping them there is great reward.

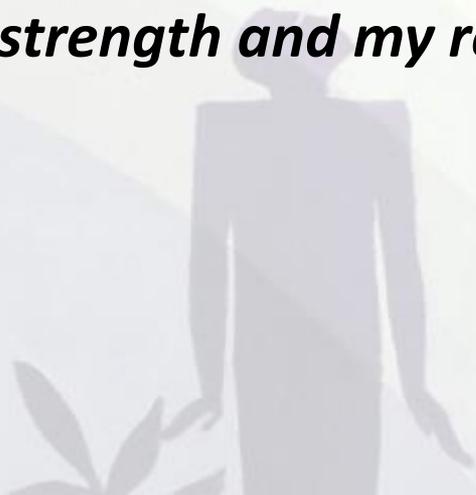
***12 Who can know their own unwitting sins?:***

***O cleanse me from my secret faults.***

**13** Keep your servant also from presumptuous sins,  
lest they get the mastery over me:  
so I shall be clean, and innocent of great offence.

***14 May the words of my mouth and the meditation  
of my heart be acceptable in your sight:***

***O Lord, my strength and my redeemer.***



## The 2<sup>nd</sup> Reading comes from the letter of **St James 2.18-26**

<sup>18</sup> But someone will say, 'You have faith and I have works.' Show me your faith without works, and I by my works will show you my faith. <sup>19</sup> You believe that God is one; you do well. Even the demons believe—and shudder. <sup>20</sup> Do you want to be shown, you senseless person, that faith without works is barren? <sup>21</sup> Was not our ancestor Abraham justified by works when he offered his son Isaac on the altar? <sup>22</sup> You see that faith was active along with his works, and faith was brought to completion by the works. <sup>23</sup> Thus the scripture was fulfilled that says, 'Abraham believed God, and it was reckoned to him as righteousness', and he was called the friend of God. <sup>24</sup> You see that a person is justified by works and not by faith alone. <sup>25</sup> Likewise, was not Rahab the prostitute also justified by works when she welcomed the messengers and sent them out by another road? <sup>26</sup> For just as the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without works is also dead.

# Prayer before Gospel

**All: We have a relationship with God  
through Jesus Christ.**

**The same Jesus who took up his cross  
and died for our sins.**

**The same Jesus who looks on us now with love  
and intercedes on our behalf.**

**Open our hearts to receive your forgiveness  
and blessing, Lord.**

**Amen.**



*The Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to St Mark Chapter 8 beginning at the 27th verse. All: **Glory to you Lord Jesus Christ***

<sup>27</sup> Jesus went on with his disciples to the villages of Caesarea Philippi; and on the way he asked his disciples, 'Who do people say that I am?' <sup>28</sup> And they answered him, 'John the Baptist; and others, Elijah; and still others, one of the prophets.' <sup>29</sup> He asked them, 'But who do you say that I am?' Peter answered him, 'You are the Messiah.' <sup>30</sup> And he sternly ordered them not to tell anyone about him. <sup>31</sup> Then he began to teach them that the Son of Man must undergo great suffering, and be rejected by the elders, the chief priests, and the scribes, and be killed, and after three days rise again. <sup>32</sup> He said all this quite openly. And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. <sup>33</sup> But turning and looking at his disciples, he rebuked Peter and said, 'Get behind me, Satan! For you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things.' <sup>34</sup> He called the crowd with his disciples, and said to them, 'If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. <sup>35</sup> For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake, and for the sake of the gospel, will save it. <sup>36</sup> For what will it profit them to gain the whole world and forfeit their life? <sup>37</sup> Indeed, what can they give in return for their life? <sup>38</sup> Those who are ashamed of me and of my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of them the Son of Man will also be ashamed when he comes in the glory of his Father with the holy angels.'

*This is the Gospel of the Lord. All: **Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ.*** HOLY HERMITS ONLINE

# *The Sermon*



Hymn- I will follow  
[https://youtu.be/h3Q\\_NWYNySY](https://youtu.be/h3Q_NWYNySY)

Curated by Paul

## *The Greeting of Peace*

If we are in Christ, we are becoming a new creation.  
**One Home, One Body.**

**We see God around us. We see God within us. We give thanks to our Creator.**

Let us show the caring nature you have instilled within us by greeting each other as a sign of God's justice of peace, love, forgiveness and grace.

The peace of our Creator be with you in all things.  
**And also with you.**

# *Prayer of Thanksgiving before Intercessions*

Lord God, we praise you that your ways are not our ways.

We praise you for the gift of your wonderful Son.

**Praise Him! Praise Him! Jesus, our blessed redeemer!**

**Tell of his excellent greatness! Ever in joyful song!**

He took risks for us, greater than we can ever comprehend. He took on the troubles and heartaches of the world, and died on the cross.

**Praise Him! Praise Him! Jesus, our blessed redeemer!**

**Tell of his excellent greatness! Ever in joyful song!**

He rose again and gave us new life in him. Life in all its fullness. Life forever.

**Praise Him! Praise Him! Jesus, our blessed redeemer!**

**Tell of his excellent greatness! Ever in joyful song!**

**Amen.**

# Intercessions

Dear God, we wish to follow,  
we wish to follow you around the earth and to the stars, but our feet  
remain firmly in this place as we gather with the other members of Holy  
Hermits Online this day to worship you. Give us the strength to follow you  
virtually around the world, focusing on your word, your intention and your  
great love for all of creation.

Lord empower us as we take up our cross and follow,  
**Empower us in the name of Jesus.**

Dear God, we wish to follow,  
we wish to follow in the footsteps of ancestors that realised what a  
wonderous space you gifted us all to share with the rest of creation.  
Thank you for the ancestors worked so hard to preserve its beauty and  
enhance its glory. For all the times when we don't consider our fabulous  
resources before wasting them, don't appreciate and seek to improve  
them, don't care and nurture them, please help us to pause, reflect and  
reset our thinking and doing.

Lord empower us as we take up our cross and follow,  
**Empower us in the name of Jesus.**

Dear God, we wish to follow,  
we wish to follow the example of nations, communities and families  
that over the ages have focused on the less in selfless and taken the  
self out of the equation. Help us to focus more on the less we need and  
reduce our selfish wishes. Please guide us as we seek to minimise our  
footprint on today for the betterment of tomorrow.  
Lord empower us as we take up our cross and follow,  
**Empower us in the name of Jesus.**

Dear God, we wish to follow, we wish to follow in the love that Jesus  
extended both physically and metaphorically through his parables to  
heal the sick in mind and body, create opportunities for beasts to not  
only survive but thrive and encourage all of nature.  
On this day when we are celebrating creation help us to look beyond  
the skin, to reach within and to accept perfection in all Earth's  
imperfections. Help us to remember you love each and every one of us  
and will be with us if only we ask.  
Lord empower us as we take up our cross and follow,  
**Empower us in the name of Jesus.**

Dear God, we wish to follow,  
we wish to follow all those who have pleased you over the ages by  
praying earnestly for grace, peace and forgiveness.  
Help us all to recognise the responsibilities that are placed on  
each of us, to do the very best we can before we get to join those  
dearly departed as angels.  
Thank you for the lives of those who are dear to us and now  
reside in eternal peace with you.

Please grant us wisdom to use our individual skills every day.  
And please remind us gently, when we forget, to thank you.  
Lord empower us as we take up our cross and follow  
**Empower us in the name of Jesus**

**Thank You**  
**AMEN**

Prayers written by Viki

# *Pray Daily Cycle of Prayer*

- The Anglican Church of Tanzania
- The Diocese of Grafton: †Murray Harvey; Clergy and People
- The Parish of Oakey: David Snape -Missioner Locum•Church Army
- St Luke's Anglican School, Bundaberg: Principal -Craig Merritt; Chaplain -Iain Furby; Chair of School Council - Hermina Conradie; members of School Council; staff & students

O God of mercy and of peace,  
We hold before you the peoples of Afghanistan, many of whom feel abandoned and betrayed.  
Be living bread to those who are hungry each day.  
Be healing and wholeness to those who have no access to health care amidst the ravages of pandemic.  
Be their true home to all who have been displaced.  
Be open arms of loving acceptance to those who fear because of their gender, ethnicity, religious or political views.  
Be peace to those engaged in armed conflict and those who live within its shadow.  
Turn our hearts and minds to your ways of just and gentle peace, open our eyes to see you in all acts of compassionate care, strengthen our hearts to step out in solidarity with your suffering people and hold us all in your unfailing love.  
We pray in the name of Jesus Christ, who emptied himself of all but love in order to bring life in all its fullness. **Amen.**

(Service of Prayer and Lament for Afghanistan, St John's Cathedral 22 August 2021)

# Season of Creation 2021 Prayer

Creator of All,

We are grateful that from your communion of love you created our planet to be a home for all.

By your Holy Wisdom you made the Earth to bring forth a diversity of living beings that filled the soil, water and air.

Each part of creation praises you in their being, and cares for one another from our place in the web of life. With the Psalmist, we sing your praise that in your house "even the sparrow finds a home, and the swallow a nest for herself, where she may lay her young."



We remember that you call human beings to keep your garden in ways that honor the dignity of each creature and conserve their place in the abundance of life on Earth.

But we know that our will to power pushes the planet beyond her limits.

Our consumption is out of harmony and rhythm with Earth's capacity to heal herself.

Habitats are left barren or lost.

Species are lost and systems fail.

Where reefs and burrows, mountaintops and oceans deep once teemed with life and relationships, wet and dry deserts lie empty, as if uncreated.

Human families are displaced by insecurity and conflict, migrating in search of peace.

Animals flee fires, deforestation and famine, wandering in search of a new place to find a home to lay their young and live.

In this Season of Creation,  
we pray that the breath of your creative Word  
would move our hearts,  
as in the waters of our birth and baptism.

Give us faith to follow Christ  
to our just place in the beloved community.

Enlighten us with the grace to respond to your covenant  
and call to care for our common home.

In our tilling and keeping,  
gladden our hearts to know that we participate with your Holy  
Spirit to renew the face of your Earth,  
and safeguard a home for all.

In the name of the One who came to proclaim good news to all  
creation, Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

*Let us join together in the prayer which Jesus gave us saying:*

**All: Holy One, our only Home,  
hallowed be your name.**

**May your day dawn,  
your will be done,  
here as in heaven.**

**Feed us today,  
and forgive us as we forgive each other.**

**Do not forsake us at the test,  
but deliver us from evil.**

**For the glory, the power, and the mercy are yours,  
now and for ever. Amen.**



# *Devotions*

*A Personal Prayer for each of us in the silence*

God, help us to know when to speak,  
(shout) **Yes, God!**  
and when we need to be more gentle.  
(whisper) **Yes, God.**

Help us remember that our words are very powerful  
things,  
and that we need to use them carefully.  
**Amen!**



# Hymn: Lift high the cross

<https://youtu.be/GbcBXYP4A1E>

Curated by Viki and Phil



# Agape Feast

Gather your foods and drinks

## Welcome To the Love Feast

We come as different people to serve the One God, who calls us to unity as the family of God. Welcome to this meal, in the name of Christ. We come to share in God's love and give God thanks and praise for the abundance we are given through God's Spirit.

*All: Holy God, we thank you for this home,  
remembering those who are homeless.*

*We thank you for our health,  
remembering those who are ill.*

*We thank you for our friends,  
remembering those who are lonely or friendless.*

*We thank you for all of these gifts and ask you to bless  
those who do not have them. Amen.*

## CALL TO THE LOVE FEAST (AGAPE MEAL)

Out of darkness came light

*All:* And the power of God was revealed in the running wave and the flowing air, in the quiet earth and the shining stars.

Out of the dust came life;

*All:* And the image of God was revealed in the human face and the gentle heart, in the warmth of flesh and the depth of soul.

Out of justice came freedom;

*All:* And the wisdom of God was revealed in the need to grow and the will to love, in the chance to know and the power to choose.

And God looked at the creation,

*All:* And Behold, it was very good.

## THE BLESSING OF THE MEAL

Welcome to this meal, in the name of Christ. We come to share in God's love.

**All: We come to share our food and our lives.**

We come to break bread together, and open ourselves to each other.

**All: We come to express our faith and our thanks.**

May God bless this food and this fellowship.

**All: As we share our food, we give thanks for this abundance, and we remember those who do not have enough.**

May God give food to those who are hungry.

**All: May God give us a hunger for justice, and a determination to serve those who hunger for food.**

## SETTING THE TABLE

On the table in the midst of this community with whom Christ is present we set symbols to remind us of his promises to us:

*LA: A candle, to remind us of the way,  
"I am the light of the world; whoever follows me will not walk in darkness but will have the light of life".*

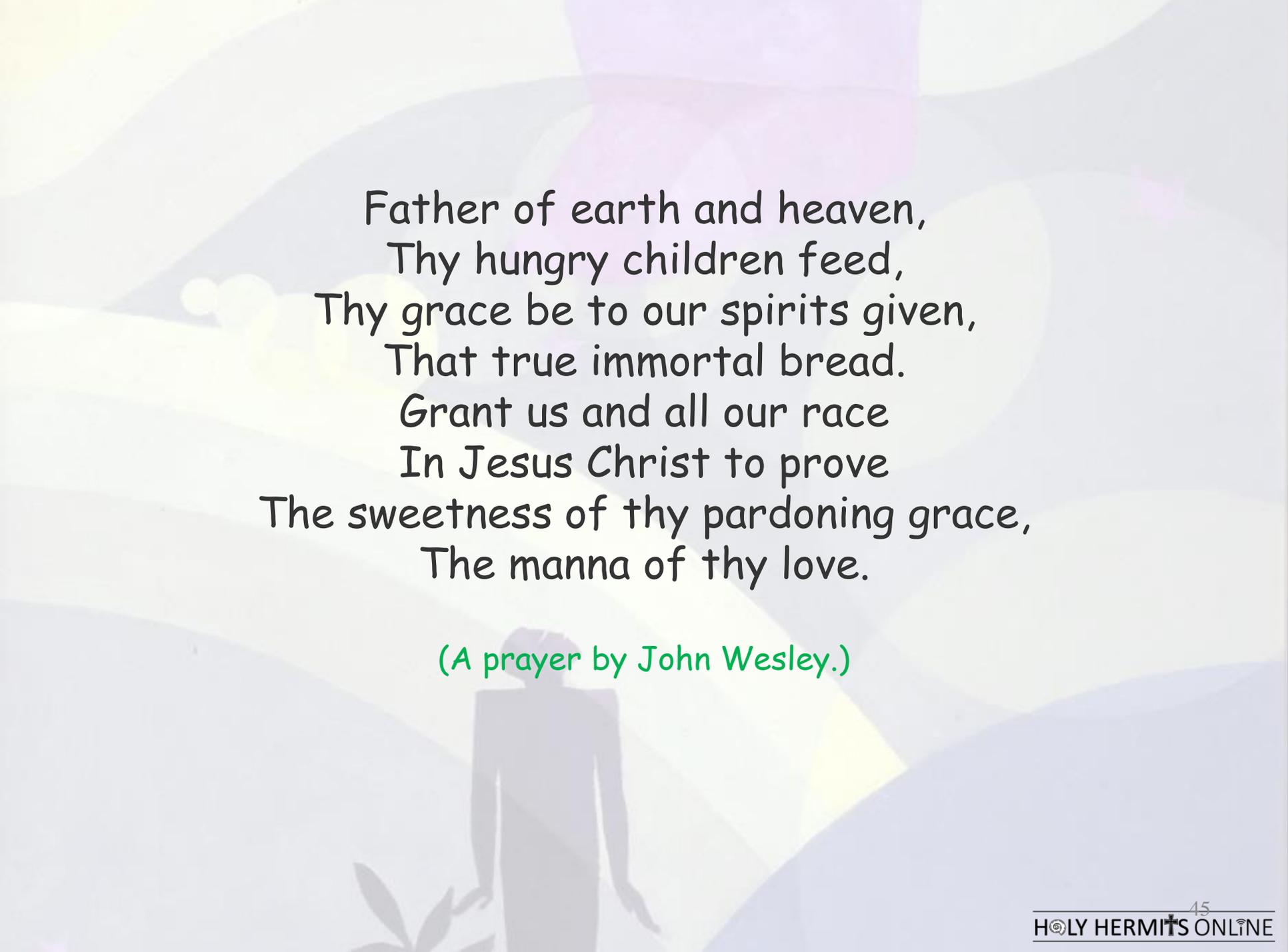
*Bread, symbol to remind us of God's love,  
"I am the bread of life. The bread that I shall give is myself for the life of the world".*

*Water, a symbol that in Christ, we will never thirst,  
for He will give us "living water" for our lives.*

**All: God, we welcome your presence with us. May the food and companionship we share nourish our bodies, hearts and minds. And may our spirits be refreshed as we live in the light of your presence, with us now and at all times and places. Amen.**

Be present at our table, Lord;  
Be here and everywhere adored;  
Thy creatures bless, and grant that we  
May feast in paradise with Thee.

*(A Prayer by John Cenick)*



Father of earth and heaven,  
Thy hungry children feed,  
Thy grace be to our spirits given,  
That true immortal bread.  
Grant us and all our race  
In Jesus Christ to prove  
The sweetness of thy pardoning grace,  
The manna of thy love.

*(A prayer by John Wesley.)*

# *Sending Prayer*

*All:* Loving God,  
we commit to following you this week  
into corners of the community  
we usually prefer to ignore.  
Help us to pray and speak and act for change.  
Amen.



## *The Blessing*

May God 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;  
and the blessing of God almighty,  
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,  
be upon us and remain with us always.  
**Amen.**

## Notices

- **Tithing Online** accessible at [holyhermits.com.au](http://holyhermits.com.au)  
[Give page](#).
- **Season of Creation - Prayer for Creation**  
Contemplative service tonight at 6pm.



*Dismissal.*

Go in peace to love and  
serve God's creation.

**In the name of Christ,  
Amen.**

Extra seasonal  
resources  
developed by  
Roots on the Web,  
and from the SOC  
guide.



"The Creation" by Aaron Douglas  
- Visio Divina Visio divina with Aaron Douglas's "The  
Creation" - Art & Theology ([artandtheology.org](http://artandtheology.org))