**Order of Service for OWW 2019**

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Notes for service leader

For the foreseeable future we only have this one world and we all need to share it, that is all people but also all of nature. The more we learn about the world, through exploration and science, the more awe-struck we become about its beauty and its complexity, the wonders of the interconnectivity of life. From the beginning people understood that creation was “good” and that we need to care for it. Also, from the beginning we know that we have not always great carers and that gluttony, envy and greed have driven us to want more regardless of the consequences.

It’s very apparent now that, in our enthusiasm to create a better world with more comfort, more choice, more convenience – all great things, we have not always acted responsibly. We are exceeding the earth’s systems to meet our demands for resources and its capacity to absorb our pollution and waste; we are destroying the tropical forests, which drive the global climate system, and other habitats, the homes of endangered species. The message is now coming loud and clear that our climate is changing - this will affect everything but, as ever, it is affecting the most vulnerable first. Already many communities are badly affected by the climate crisis: reindeer herders in northern Sweden, subsistence farmers in Africa, Islanders in the Pacific.

**What is our response?** – One World Week’s aims for togetherness, of seeking justice and working towards peace seem ever more urgent - Now is the Time to Act! This week would be a great opportunity in Sunday worship to launch a new church initiative – maybe working towards eco-church or live simply awards or a smaller greening or recycling project.

**Planning the Service**

This outline can be developed and adapted to your own preference and needs. On this topic of climate justice and care of creation, there are already a great deal of ideas available and we have included, at the end, some web links that might be helpful. We have limited ourselves here to preparing prayers and notes with Sunday worship for the liturgical cycle for 20th October in mind. For the 27th October please see the alternative version. We hope they are a useful starting point for planning a One World Week service.

*N.B.- The readings are all taken from the Jerusalem Bible, 1996 Edition*

**Order of Service**

**Welcome**

This week we offer a special One World Week welcome. It’s a week, when we are asked to focus on global issues and celebrate living in a shared world. One World Week is an annual initiative focused around United Nations Day on the 24th October to encourage communities to get together to think about peace and justice in our shared world. As people of faith we are continuously called to act justly for, as we shall see in our readings, we will be judged. This year the challenge for One World Week is very topical “Climate Changes Everything” and calls to us that “Now is the Time to Act“, so let’s prepare.

A SOCIETY IN WHICH CONSUMPTION HAS TO BE ARTIFICIALLY STIMULATED

IN ORDER TO KEEP PRODUCTION GOING IS A SOCIETY FOUNDED ON TRASH AND WASTE,

AND SUCH A SOCIETY IS A HOUSE BUILT UPON SAND.

- Dorothy Sayers (1893-1957)

**Penitential Rite or Confession**

Lord Creator of all things

We confess that we often forget that we are utterly dependent upon you and interdependent with the rest of your creation. We confess that instead of acting compassionately and gently, we have instead been wasteful and careless with creation.

**Merciful Lord forgive us and help us to change.**

We confess that we have not done enough to protect our planet. As consumers, we have not always considered the needs of the people who grow or make our goods and the impact this is having on the earth through pollution and carbon consumption.

**Merciful Lord forgive us and help us to change.**

We confess we often find it difficult to speak up for justice and to get involved ourselves in sharing our responsibility for the care of the world to secure a future for our children. Help us acknowledge that we have a moral obligation for the future of the world and that now is the time to act on our moral obligation to the future of the planet

**Merciful Lord forgive us and help us to change.**

**Readings**

**Exodus 178-13** *War with the Amalekites*

The Amalekites came and attacked the Israelites at Rephidim.  Moses said to Joshua, “*Pick out some men for yourself, and tomorrow morning march out to engage Amalek. I meanwhile will stand on the hilltop, the staff of God in my hand.”* Joshua did as Moses told him and marched out to engage the Amalek, while Moses, Aaron, and Hur went up to the top of the hill.  As long as Moses kept his arms raised, Israel had the advantage, when he let his arms fall, the advantage went to Amalek. ButMoses' arms grew heavy, so they took a stone and put it under him and on this he sat, Aaron and Hur supporting his arms one on one side, one on the other; and his arms remained firm until sunset. With the edge of the sword Joshua cut down Amalek and his people.

**Psalm**

**Our help is in the name of the Lord**

**who made heaven and earth.**

I lift up my eyes to the mountains;

from where shall come my help?

My help shall come from the Lord

Who made heaven and earth.

**Our help is in the name of the Lord**

**who made heaven and earth.**

May he never allow you to stumble!

Let him sleep, not your guard.

No, he sleeps not nor slumbers

Israel’s guard.

**Our help is in the name of the Lord**

**who made heaven and earth.**

The Lord is your guard and your shade;

At your right side he stands.

By day the sun shall not smite you

Nor the moon in the night

**Our help is in the name of the Lord**

**who made heaven and earth.**

The Lord will guard you from evil,

He will guard your soul.

The Lord will guard your going and coming

Both now and forever.

**Our help is in the name of the Lord**

**who made heaven and earth**

“WE SHALL AWAKEN FROM OUR DULLNESS AND RISE VIGOROUSLY TOWARD JUSTICE.

IF WE FALL IN LOVE WITH CREATION DEEPER AND DEEPER,

WE WILL RESPOND TO ITS ENDANGERMENT WITH PASSION.”

-- Hildegard of Bingen (1098-1179)

**2 Timothy 3:14-4:2** *Fully equipped and ready for any good work****.***

You must keep to what you have been taught and know to be true; remember who your teachers were andhow, ever since you were a child, you have known the Holy Scriptures; from these you can learn the wisdom that leads to salvation through faith in Christ Jesus. All Scripture is inspired by God and is profitably to be used for teaching, refuting error, for guiding people’s lives and teaching them to be holy. This is how the man who is dedicated to God becomes fully equipped and ready for any good work.

Before God and before Christ Jesus, who is to judge the living and the dead, I put this duty to you, in the name of his appearing and of his kingdom: proclaim the message and, welcome or unwelcome, insist on it. Refute falsehood, correct error, call to obedience – but do all with patience and with the intention of teaching.

GOD WRITES THE GOSPEL, NOT IN THE BIBLE ALONE, BUT ALSO ON TREES,

AND IN THE FLOWERS AND CLOUDS AND STARS. -- Martin Luther (1483-1546)

**Gospel Luke 18:1-8** *The Parable of the Persistent Widow.*

Then he told them a parable about the necessity for them to pray always without becoming weary. He said, “There was a judge in a certain town who neither feared God nor respected any human being. And a widow in that town used to come to him and say, ‘Render a just decision for me against my adversary’. For a long time the judge was unwilling, but eventually he thought, ‘While it is true that I neither fear God nor respect any human being, because this widow keeps bothering me, I shall deliver a just decision for her lest she finally come and strike me.’ The Lord said, ‘Pay attention to what the dishonest judge says. Will not God then secure the rights of his chosen ones who call out to him day and night? Will he be slow to answer them? I tell you; he will see to it that justice is done for them speedily. But when the Son of Man comes, will he find faith on earth?’”

**Address**

You may wish to have a speaker on climate justice from for example Christian Aid, CAFOD, Green Christians Tearfund or local green group or maybe show a video clip or drama at this point.

**Some reflections on readings**

**Our help is in the name of the Lord who made Heaven and earth**

‘Climate Changes Everything’, this year’s OWW theme may seem an overwhelming prospect; where should we start? But this has always been the calling of Christians to work towards the creating of the kingdom. And we have resources at our disposal - the overriding theme of our Readings is **Persevere**!

In the first reading the Israelites have faith that they have advantage in battle as long as Moses keeps his arms raised with the staff of God. But when he becomes weary, overwhelmed by the task, Moses is not alone: Aaron and Hur stand with him supporting his arms until sunset and the Israelites win. We may not all be that comfortable with the battle analogy, but this is a story about faith: Moses remains in prayer all day; when it becomes too much, he has help and the Lord answers. The story of the Israelites wandering in the desert is all a test of faith, their circumstance often seems hopeless, often they lack faith, there are setbacks, but the Lord always comes through. We, too, as we face the enormous challenges of the climate crisis, pollution and global inequity, are not alone. We have the Lord, so persevere in prayer and, like Moses, who had Aaron and Hur, when things seem hopeless, we have each other- everyone is needed. The Psalm reinforces the message of the other readings: as we stumble, the Lord is with us.

Paul’s letter to Timothy also offers insight teaching us “*the wisdom that leads to salvation”* preparing us to be ready for good works. What good works? -*proclaiming the Good News, refuting falsehood, correcting errors and obedience.* The Good News is that, if we follow Jesus’ teaching, we will be saved, and we do this by loving God and our neighbour. We need to consider our actions in relation to our one world, our brothers and sisters living alongside us and generations to come. In the context of thinking about one world week can we: refute errors, speak truth, acknowledge that sometimes our actions cause maybe unintentional harm to others? Having recognised this we must change, correct errors, stop polluting and wastefulness, lower our consumption, get involved in civil society practically and speak out for the care of all creation. As it says in the reading these messages will sometimes be welcome and sometimes unwelcome, but we need to be obedient to our calling. Tough, but remember we have those resources - the Lord is with us; we can support each other plus we have Scripture, a teaching tool which guides our lives and teaches us to be holy.

Finally, our gospel: if we need further reassurance that God is with us as we work together, we have Jesus’ parable of the unjust judge. The widow who keeps pestering the judge to do what is right, maybe she could be a model for all of us. Even when things seem hopeless, persist for justice – enough food for all, shelter for safety, dignity of work and a climate where all creation can flourish.

So- pray hard - keep faith – persist- get started on good works – for Now is the Time to Act.

**Introduce your action**

TO DRIVE TO EXTINCTION SOMETHING HE HAS CREATED IS WRONG.

HE HAS A PURPOSE FOR EVERYTHING…. WE CHRISTIANS HAVE A RESPONSIBILITY

TO TAKE THE LEAD IN CARING FOR THE EARTH. --Billy Graham

**Prayers of intercession**

NOW IS THE TIME TO PRAY for every church community in the world, that we all continue to persevere, as Christ taught us, in our prayers to the Father, the just judge. May our common cries for the needs of the world, this One World Week, be heard and shine out bringing justice, equality, inclusiveness and peace for all people.

Lord in your mercy **Here our prayer**

NOW IS THE TIME TO PRAY for the whole created world; people, animals and plants. Help those in positions of influence and power nationally and internationally to a greater understanding of how to safeguard our environmental resources and the courage to speak up for vital action whether it be welcome or unwelcome.

Lord in your mercy **Here our prayer**

NOW IS THE TIME TO PRAY for our own local community: councillors, business owners, shop keepers, faith and school leaders, charity workers, campaigners, community volunteers and all who work and live in our town. Help us respect each other in our diversity to come together to support each other in building a just, more equal, inclusive and peaceful place that safeguards our local environmental resources for future generations.

Lord in your mercy **Here our prayer**

NOW IS THE TIME TO PRAY for all those suffering from the effects of climate change and pollution, particularly, the indigenous peoples whose way of life is now threatened, subsistence farmers who can no longer rely on rain for their crops and island peoples whose homes are flooded by rising sea levels. Comfort them in their distress and offer them assistance in finding new ways forward.

Lord in your mercy **Here our prayer**

NOW IS THE TIME TO PRAY for ourselves, that in the final judgement we are not found wanting. Through our study of Scripture and our prayers, lead us to a deeper understanding of our responsibilities in working towards one world shared for everyone. Give us the strength to persevere, like the widow before the unjust judge, when we, too, need justice.

Lord in your mercy **Here our prayer**

“WITHOUT EARTH, THERE IS NO RAIN, AND WITHOUT RAIN, THE EARTH CANNOT ENDURE,

AND WITHOUT EITHER, HUMANS CANNOT EXIST. “

Genesis Rabbah 13:3 (between 3rd and 5th centuries)

**Offering of gifts**

*You may wish to use the prayers from the PowerPoint Creation reflection as an alternative to the prayers of intersession. Another idea might be to physically bring up goods of creation, a tool on a pillow, a bowl of earth and water, plants, a light, an animal (real or perhaps soft toys) and people with gifts*

Praise and glory to the Lord for giving us day to work and night to rest. Guide us to make good use of our time to know when to work and when to rest.

***One world created, shared by all! Sustain us to work together as good stewards of the earth, for Now is the Time to Act***

Praise and glory to the Lord for giving us the sky, the sea and the earth. Guide us to respect the wonders of this place as we journey through this life.

***One world created, shared by all! Sustain us to work together as good stewards of the earth, for Now is the Time to Act***

Praise and glory to the Lord for giving us an amazing number of plants and trees, for food, for beauty and to produce oxygen for us all to breath. Guide us to a better understanding of how to be better gardeners, farmers, environmentalists and conservationist.

***One world created, shared by all! Sustain us to work together as good stewards of the earth, for Now is the Time to Act***

Praise and glory to the Lord for giving us the sun, the moon and the stars to light our way and creating an atmosphere where life can thrive. Guide us to be more courageous in speaking out against those things that damage the world.

***One world created, shared by all! Sustain us to work together as good stewards of the earth, for Now is the Time to Act***

*Praise and glory to the Lord for the marvelous diversity of creatures. Grant us the wisdom to deepen our understanding of the biodiversity and interdependence of all living things.*

***One world created, shared by all! Sustain us to work together as good stewards of the earth, for Now is the Time to Act***

Praise and glory to the Lord our creator who knows and blesses every one of us. Guide us as we recognise our responsibility to each play a part in the flourishing of all creation, nature and humankind.

***One world created, shared by all! Sustain us to work together as good stewards of the earth, for Now is the Time to Act***

“I BELIEVE IN MY HEART THAT FAITH IN JESUS CHRIST CAN AND WILL LEAD US BEYOND AN EXCLUSIVE CONCERN FOR THE WELL-BEING OF OTHER HUMAN BEINGS TO THE BROADER CONCERN FOR THE WELL-BEING OF THE BIRDS IN OUR BACKYARDS, THE FISH IN OUR RIVERS, AND EVERY LIVING CREATURE ON THE FACE OF THE EARTH”. -- John Wesley (1701-1791)

**Commissioning – Sending forth**

To make an impact One World Week is calling for action NOW so it seems appropriate at the end of the service to ask for some commitment – invite people to make a simple promise to change something, maybe on a pledge tree. Or CAFOD, Christian Aid, Friends of the Earth and other charities have petitions that could be signed together.

**Blessing**

We thank the Lord for all the wonders of the universe and praise him for this opportunity to come together this day as part of the family of all creation.

May our prayers and actions help to build a just, more equal, inclusive and peaceful world that safeguards environmental resources now and for future generations. May the Lord Bless you and all your endeavours to be good stewards of the earth……. +

“HOW WONDERFUL IT IS THAT NOBODY NEED WAIT A SINGLE MOMENT BEFORE STARTING TO IMPROVE THE WORLD.” Anne Frank

**Other Ideas**

*Other One World Week resources on the website* [www.oneworldweek.org](http://www.oneworldweek.org) *including a OWW prayer, Creation PowerPoint and Planet Doctor drama. Browse the ‘Faith based resources library or enter what you are looking for into the search engine.*

<https://www.oneworldweek.org/resources-list/planet-doctor-2019-pdf-version/25/default>

<https://greenchristian.org.uk/faith-and-hope/-> *ideas for prayers hymns and worship*

<https://operationnoah.org/resources/a-creation-communion/>

<https://ctbi.org.uk/-> *prayers for creation time, Brexit and church solidarity*

<https://cafod.org.uk/Campaign/Climate/Our-Common-Home> *ideas for readings, hymns for a creation service*

<https://www.christianaid.org.uk/resources/worship/prayer-climate-change>

*Plenty of other creative resources and short videos that explain climate change*

*Eg*: <https://350.org/rise-from-one-island-to-another/> *with Greta Thunberg’s song might an alternative.* <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zq4eCQCgQw8>