**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 27th October in mind. For the 20th 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**

**Ecclesiasticus 35:12-14,16**-19

*Prayers pierce the clouds*

The Lord is a judge who is no respecter of personages.

He shows no respect of personages to the detriment of a poor man,

he listens to the plea of the injured party.

He does not ignore the orphan’s supplication, nor the widow’s story.

The man who with his whole heart serves God will be accepted, his petitions will carry to the clouds. The humble man’s prayer pierces the clouds, until it arrives he is inconsolable, nor will he desist until the Most High takes notice of him,

acquits the virtuous and delivers judgement.

And the Lord will not be slow, nor will he be dilatory on their behalf.

**Psalm**

I will bless the Lord at all times,

his praise always on my lips;

in the Lord my soul shall make its boast.

The humble shall hear and be glad.

**This poor man called; the Lord heard him.**

The Lord turns his face against the wicked

to destroy their remembrance from the earth.

The just call and the Lord hears

and rescues them in all their distress.

**This poor man called; the Lord heard him.**

The Lord is close to the broken-hearted;

those whose spirit is crushed he will save.

The Lord ransoms the souls of his servants.

Those who hide in him shall not be condemned

**This poor man called; the Lord heard him.**

“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 4:6-8,16-18 *The crown of righteousness***

My life is already being poured away as a libation, and time has come for me to be gone. I have fought the good fight to the end; I have run the race to the finish; I have kept the faith; all there is to come now is the crown of righteousness reserved for me, which the Lord, the righteous judge, will give to me on that Day; and not only to me but to all those who have longed for his Appearing.

The first time I had to present my defence, there was not a single witness to support me. Every one of them deserted me - may they not be held accountable for it. But the Lord stood by me and gave me power, so that through me the whole message might be proclaimed for all the pagans to hear; and so, I was rescued from the lion’s mouth. The Lord will rescue me from all evil attempts on me and bring me safely to his heavenly kingdom. To Him be glory for ever and ever, Amen

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 18:9-14** *The tax collector and the pharisees*

Jesus spoke the following parable to some people who prided themselves on being virtuous and despised everyone else. “Two men went up to the Temple to pray, one a Pharisee, the other a tax collector. The Pharisee stood there and said this prayer to himself, ‘I thank you God, that I am not grasping, unjust, adulterous like the rest of mankind, and particularly that I am not like this tax collector here. I fast twice a week; I pay tithes on all I get.’ The tax collector stood some distance away, not daring even to raise his eyes to heaven; this man, I tell you, went home again at rights with God; the other did not. For everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, but the man who humbles himself will be exalted.”

**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**

**The poor man called; the Lord heard him.**

Readings for this week continue last week’s theme of prayer and how our persistence in prayer will lead to the Lord’s answer. However, this week we go deeper into our attitude, our recognition as ourselves with frailties through our selfishness and pride that lead us not always to do what is right. We can look at these readings helpfully to reflect on our personal sins, but today we come together to think about the One World Week theme about *Climate Changing Everything* so let’s try to think about the bigger picture of our collective sin. Our great desire to have more, without always thinking of the consequences for others and the future.

The reading from Ecclesiasticus gives the beautiful imagery of the humble man’s prayers piercing the clouds to be heard by the Lord, the just judge, who will act speedily on the side of the injured party. In the context of the changing climate we are all injured, everyone is affected, we have all lamented about the changes in the weather, the polluted air that effects our health, and the rubbish that spoils our enjoyment of the natural world. But those affected most are, of course, the poor and the vulnerable, those least able to migrate the changes: indigenous peoples whose habitats are devastated for the profit of others, subsistence farmers whose land will no longer grow crops, the life of the oceans polluted by plastics causing lack of fish to eat. The Lord will hear the prayers of those suffering, we too hear these stories and experience their consequences – does the Lord call us to respond to these cries and change our habits?

Are we looking forward like Paul, in the letter to Timothy, to our day before the righteous judge, will we be able to say we kept the faith? In our personal lives we recognise our errors, call for mercy and forgiveness and look to change. But will we be called out for the sins of omission, we might see the problems of the world as too big for us, and yes, we may not be able to solve all of them, but are we doing our part; can we live a more simple lifestyle, share what we have and care for our environment and neighbours more, for the good of all - not alone but together?

Finally, our Gospel, the Pharisees and the tax collector praying - sometimes in our lives we make big mistakes and are weighed down by guilt and can recognise the humility of the tax collector and the joy that comes with the relief of mercy and forgiveness. However, we are all in danger, too, of being more like the Pharisee, comfortable that we are doing the best we can. This One World Week is a chance for us to come together and recognise that we have a part to play in creating a more just world - this year it’s asking us to look at recognising that our lifestyles and nature are interconnected, we have a responsibility to secure a future for our children and to act now.

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>