



The Rainbow Pilgrimage



Saturday 9th October 2004 at 2.30pm

Welcome to Coventry Cathedral

ORDER OF SERVICE

The congregation gathers in the Cathedral Ruins for the Litany of Reconciliation.

Following the bombing of the mediaeval Cathedral in 1940, Provost Howard had the words 'Father Forgive' (Luke 23.34) inscribed on the wall behind the Altar of the ruined building. These words are used as the response in the Coventry Litany of Reconciliation, which is prayed in the ruins every Friday at noon, and is used throughout the world by the Community of the Cross of Nails.

The Litany of Reconciliation

All have sinned and fallen short of the glory of God.

The hatred which divides nation from nation, race from race, class from class,

Father Forgive.

The covetous desires of people and nations to possess what is not their own,

Father Forgive.

The greed which exploits the work of human hands and lays waste the earth,

Father Forgive.

Our envy of the welfare and happiness of others,

Father Forgive.

Our indifference to the plight of the imprisoned, the homeless, the refugee,

Father Forgive.

The lust which dishonours the bodies of men, women and children,

Father Forgive.

The pride which leads us to trust in ourselves and not in God,

Father Forgive.

The congregation keep two minutes silence for victims of climate change.

Be kind to one another, tender-hearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ forgave you.

The procession then moves into the new Cathedral during which the children sing the following song from 'Captain Noah and his Floating Zoo'.

Song

The Lord looked down on the earth and it made him sad
It should have been good what I made but it turned out bad
There's nothing but sinning, wickedness and violence there
Remind me to wash mankind right out of my hair

I'm gonna make it rain and rain and rain and rain and rain
I'm gonna make it rain and rain and rain and rain again
For forty days and forty nights
'Cos I'm sorry I said: "Let there be light!"
Rain and rain and rain and rain and rain!

I'm gonna make it rain and rain and rain and rain and rain
For forty days and nights of rain
I'm gonna wash those sinners down the drain!

Rain and rain and rain and rain and rain

The congregation gather in the shape of a rainbow at the West End, facing into the building. When the songs are finished, Canon Adrian Daffern, Precentor of Coventry, welcomes everybody.

The Welcome

We welcome you to Coventry Cathedral where the ministry of working for reconciliation between people has long been valued. We welcome you, the Rainbow Pilgrims, who symbolise God's promise to every living creature. We affirm your ministry of working for reconciliation between all God's creatures. May your time with us be blessed with renewed vision, purpose and power for God's kingdom to come on Earth.

Hymn

The children and congregation moves to the chairs in the nave during the singing of the hymn.

All creatures of our God and King
lift up your voice and with us sing
alleluia, alleluia.

O burning sun with golden beam,
and silver moon with softer gleam,
*Now praise him, now praise him,
alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.*

O rushing wind that is so strong,
and clouds that sail in heaven along,
now praise him, alleluia.

O rising morn, in praise rejoice,
and lights of evening, find a voice;
Chorus

O flowing water, pure and clear,
make music for your Lord to hear,
alleluia, alleluia.

O fire so masterful and bright,
giving to all both warmth and light,
Chorus

Dear mother earth, who day by day
unfolds rich blessings on our way,
now praise him, alleluia.
The flowers and fruits that bloom and grow,
let them his glory also show:
Chorus

**Let all things their Creator bless,
and worship him in humbleness;
now praise him, alleluia.
Praise, praise the Father, praise the Son,
and praise the Spirit, Three in One;
*Chorus***

*William Henry Draper (1855-1933) based on Laudato si, O me signore
Francis of Assisi's Canticle of the Sun*

Everyone SITS for the introduction by Bishop John Oliver

The Introduction

'How many are your works O Lord, in wisdom you have made them all'. With these words the Psalmist was moved to praise God for the wonder of all creation, including the climate of our planet which makes life possible. In our time, however, we are experiencing unprecedented climate change caused by our own behaviour. This has consequences for all life on earth. The rainbow reminds us of the covenant between God and all living creatures. In the story of Noah, God promised never again to flood the earth. This time it is humans in the developed world who are causing floods and storms through our use of fossil fuels and the release of greenhouse gases. We have gathered to pray that all humans will join in the 'Rainbow Pilgrimage' to change the way we live. It is up to us, with the power of God's Spirit, to reverse the damage we have caused.

Everyone remains SEATED for

The Reading

Read by Jo Rathbone, Coventry Diocesan Environment Officer

God said, 'This is the sign of the covenant that I make between me and you and every living creature that is with you, for all future generations: I

have set my bow in the clouds, and it shall be a sign of the covenant between me and the earth.

When I bring clouds over the earth and the bow is seen in the clouds, I will remember my covenant that is between me and you and every living creature of all flesh; and the waters shall never again become a flood to destroy all flesh. When the bow is in the clouds, I will see it and remember the everlasting covenant between God and every living creature of all flesh that is on the earth.' God said to Noah, 'This is the sign of the covenant that I have established between me and all flesh that is on the earth.'

Genesis 9.12-17

The children sing the following song from 'Captain Noah and His Floating Zoo'

It looks like rain - now won't that just be jolly!
It looks like rain – you know, I thought it would!
It looks like rain – I must go and get my broolly
A short, sharp shower will do the flowers good!
It looks like rain
In fact it's really pouring
It looks like rain
The ground has turned to mud!
It looks like rain – can you hear the river soaring?
I shouldn't be surprised if it was going to flood!

And now it's round my ankles
And now it's round my knees
And some are on the rooftops And some are climbing trees

Oh God forgive me please!
Oh God forgive me please!

It looks like the sea is rising like a fountain
It looks like *HELP!!*
I'm making for the mountain
It looks like *AAH!!*
The world's a brimming jug!
The water's round my shoulders and I'm *GLUG, GLUG, GLUG!*

Glugugugugugugugugug! Glug! Glug!

Everyone STANDS for

A Call to Penitence and Reconciliation

(based on 'Creation Festival Liturgy' at Coventry Cathedral in 1988)

Father forgive us, for we knew not what we did.

We, the children of God,

Cry aloud to you, Lord our God.

Free us from sin and guilt to be truly your people.

Free us to praise you and live in your way forever.

Forests grew and died, and grew again, while under the Earth a treasure of fuel was laid. Your people grew in skill and curiosity and unearthed the secret carbon heritage of the forests. We tamed fire in our engines to increase our comfort and mobility. We have been tempted to take these benefits to ourselves, to live a life where you could no longer find us.

Father forgive us, for we knew not what we did.

Creator of all, the hymn of creation has become the cry of the world. Like Adam and Eve in the garden, we hide ourselves in shame. Yet, just as you came to them and asked them lovingly, 'Where are you?', so you come to us today and lovingly ask us, 'Where are you?' We are here Lord, seeing ourselves as the centre of your world, and blind to the fact that you are the centre of all your creation.

Father forgive us, for we knew not what we did.

We are here, Lord, destroying in a few years the mighty works of aeons, so that we may be comfortable as we prepare catastrophe. We are here Lord, exposing the poor to a fragile future, threatening the livelihoods of our children, and driving animals and plant life to extinction.

Father forgive us, for we knew not what we did.

Now we know;

Hear our cry for help to change our ways.

Creator of the mighty trees, the broad oceans, the atmosphere, the earth,
and all that lives, forgive us and reconcile us to you.
Let us remake this world in the love and compassion of the One who
makes all things new, who is the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and
the End.

**We, the children of God,
cry aloud to you, Lord our God.
Restore, reconcile and re-equip us
to live in harmony with all creation,
and to be signs to each other and to the world
of your kingdom come on Earth.**

Everyone SITS for

A Reflection
by Bishop John Oliver

Everyone STANDS for

Prayers of Response and Resolution

*These are based on the four creatures in the tapestry surrounding Christ representing
Startled Awe, Crouching Intellect, Humble Toil and Proud Energy*

Glory be to you O Christ – Saviour of the world.
To you all creatures bow
 in awe and praise and thanksgiving.
 You reconcile all things on earth and heaven.
 Your loving presence fills the whole universe.
Grant us power to grasp how wide and long
 and high and deep is the love of Christ.

Choir

Al - le - lu - ia, Al - le - lu - ia;

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Everyone

Al - le - lu - ia, Al - le - lu - ia!

Glory be to you O Christ – Saviour of the world.
 Teach us to use our civilisation’s collective learning in your service.
 You taught your disciples to live simply, yet joyfully together.
 You formed their thinking through your stories and example.
 Grant us power to use our intellects with wisdom
 to cut our use of energy and live more simply,
 and to share our technology and resources
 in humility and love with all God’s children.

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

Glory be to you O Christ – Saviour of the world.
 As the Word made flesh you worked as a carpenter
 You shaped wood with tools at a bench in Nazareth
 You learned the skills of a craftsman
 and used the technology of your day.
 Grant us power as we work to harness the wind and sun, waves and rivers
 To bring light and power without damage to your world.

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

Glory be to you O Christ – Saviour of the world.
 As God’s Word you were there at the beginning of space and time,
 when energy pulsated through matter
 when the sun’s rays lightened the darkness
 when the seas and rivers first flowed
 and the winds rushed over the face of the oceans.
 Grant us power to share and use this energy wisely.

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

Everyone SITS for

Mission Talk

given by David Hallman of the World Council of Churches

Everyone remains SEATED for this song, from Captain Noah and his Floating Zoo', sung by the children

Song

Oh what a wonderful scene
The rainbow overhead
Violet, indigo, blue and green
Yellow, orange and red!

SOLO This is my promise to you
The rainbow overhead
Violet, indigo, blue and green
All the colours that lie between

Violet, indigo, blue and green
Yellow, orange and red!

ALL (2parts)
Oh what a wonderful scene
The rainbow overhead
Violet, indigo, blue and green
Yellow, orange and red!

You'll see the rainbow in the sky,
You'll know God's words are true;
Go forth! Increase! And multiply!
By two by two by two by two!!!

Everyone remains SEATED for

Explanation of Operation Noah

given by Paul Bodenham, trustee of Christian Ecology Link

Everyone STANDS to sing

Hymn

During this hymn the procession of climate change covenants and the gifts of water and earth take place

**For the fruits of all creation,
Thanks be to God;
For these gifts to every nation,
Thanks be to God;
For the ploughing, sowing, reaping,
Silent growth while we are sleeping,
Future needs in earth's safe-keeping,
Thanks be to God.**

**In the just reward of labour,
God's will is done;
In the help we give our neighbour,
God's will is done;
In our world-wide task of caring
For the hungry and despairing,
In the harvests we are sharing,
God's will is done.**

**For the harvests of the Spirit,
Thanks be to God;
For the good we all inherit,
Thanks be to God;
For the wonders that astound us,**

**For the truths that still confound us,
Most of all that love has found us,
Thanks be to God.**

Fred Pratt Green (1903-2000)
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Everyone SITS for the following prayers

The Offertory Prayer

Bishop John introduces this prayer

Lord God of all creation

**We offer back to you these gifts of earth and water
on which all life depends.**

We offer to you the climate covenants made today.

O God, you keep your promises.

Help us by the power of the Holy Spirit

to keep the solemn promises we have made.

Amen.

The Rainbow Prayer for Operation Noah

Bishop John says

Creator God, how deep are your designs!

You made a living earth, cloud, rain and wind,
and charged us with their care.

We confess that the way we live today

is changing the climate,

the seas and the balance of life

dispossessing the poor and future generations.

Build our lives into an Ark for all creation,

and, as you promised Noah

never to repeat the Flood,

so makes us heralds of a new rainbow covenant:
choosing life for all that is at risk –
for creation,
for neighbours near and far.

The Lord's Prayer

Bishop John says

Let us pray to the Father
in the words our Saviour gave us.

**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 them that 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.**

Everyone STANDS

The Commissioning

In the seas and the rain, God bestowed on Earth the gift of water,
so that his creation could flourish into life.

Through the waters of baptism, God beckons us to a new creation,
so that we may share in a life beyond life.

Today, by water also, including this water here,

may the Covenant which we have made be sealed,
and creation renewed and restored to God's eternal purposes.
And may this water be a blessing to us as we set out from here
to lead our peoples in the world's Rainbow Pilgrimage.

*Bishop John, led by stewards holding the collected Covenants and gifts, proceeds towards
the West End sprinkling the congregation with water. The congregation turns as they
pass, while singing the hymn.*

Hymn

During this hymn the children and clergy process to the back of the Cathedral

I, the Lord of sea and sky,
I have heard my people cry.
All who dwell in dark and sin
my hand will save.
I who made the stars of night,
I will make their darkness bright.
Who will bear my light to them?
Whom shall I send?

*Here I am, Lord: Is it I, Lord?
I have heard you calling in the night.
I will go Lord, if you lead me
I will hold your people in my heart.*

I, the Lord of snow and rain,
I have borne my people's pain.
I have wept for love of them.
They turn away.
I will break their hearts of stone,
give them hearts for love alone.
I will speak my word to them.
Whom shall I send?

I, the Lord of wind and flame,
I will tend the poor and lame.
I will set a feast for them.
My hand will save.

**Finest bread I will provide
till their hearts be satisfied.
I will give my life to them.
Whom shall I send?**

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Bishop John gives the blessing from the West End of the Cathedral

The Blessing

Go forth now to care for God's world.
Use energy wisely.
Share your knowledge.
Sacrifice where necessary.
Live in harmony with all creation.
Go out into all the world as heralds of a new rainbow covenant
and preach the good news to all creation.
And the blessing of God Almighty,
Father, Son and Holy Spirit,
be with you all now and always.
Amen.

The congregation departs. A retiring collection will be taken.

*We are grateful to Linda Wainscot and the children and staff of the following schools
for their hard work in preparing for today's service:*

Berkswell Church of England Primary School, Solihull
Bilton Church of England Junior School, Rugby
Dunnington Church of England Primary School, Nr Alcester
Moreton Morrell Church of England Primary School, Nr Wellesbourne
Salford Priors Church of England Primary School, Nr Alcester
St Bartholomews Church of England Primary School, Coventry

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