

**An example Order of service for:
A Service for Healing of the Earth**

A service of healing prayer and anointing for the earth and each other
held at St Mark's Broomhill on 31st July 2022

This informal service lasted about 45 minutes and included readings, music and time for reflection, anointing and prayer. It was offered as a prayer space to pray together for the healing of the world.

What might such prayer look like we were asked?

Climate change confronts us with the inescapable truth that life is fragile. It makes us anxious about the future. This is called climate anxiety, where we feel like the task is too great and we are too small to make any difference. We and our children, if we are lucky enough to have any, are certainly worrying...

But despite this our Christian calling is to be people of hope. Love for our global neighbour, for the children who will come after us, calls us to live in a way that consumes fewer resources and to campaign for change... to pray for the healing of the earth together perhaps in a different and more insistent way.

So during this service we were challenged to make some of our prayers active ones. How could our hands, the hands God has given us.. God's hands... play our part in healing the earth, we were asked?

Perhaps the part we had to play, our piece in the jigsaw, was in every small change we could make. Our prayer might be a litter picking prayer walk, perhaps praying for the environment and the people that we meet as we go. Perhaps we could plant a tree, lobby parliament, share lifts, walk or cycle to work, grow our own vegetables or go meat light.

We were asked:

What will your prayer for the earth look like, I wonder?

Prayer stations set up inside the church were used to challenge us to commit to active prayer for our world. During the service there was an opportunity to have our hands anointed for service and afterwards there was space to be prayed for by a healing prayer team.

Some pictures of the service are attached to give you some ideas for your own similar service along the same lines.

Images of the event



Welcome to St Mark's Church

Night Service

@7.00 pm

On Sunday 31st July



A Service for Healing of the Earth

*A service of healing prayer and anointing for the earth
and each other*

Order of Service

Gathering

Take time to settle.

Use these opening minutes to ...

Become aware ...

of your surroundings,

of those around,

of those you carry within.

Welcome & introduction

This service of readings, music, time for reflection and prayer is offered as an opportunity to reflect on what wholeness means to us in terms of the healing of our earth. We will invite you during our time this evening to consider what active prayer might look like to heal the earth and how the earth offers healing to us. We hope this sacred space offers a place where you can be restored and strengthened in mind, body, and spirit.

There are several prayer stations set up inside the church and you are invited to engage with these in the time of silence.

Laying-on of hands is an optional part of our worship this evening and is an opportunity to have your hands anointed for service.

As we prepare to worship, we light a candle



Opening Responses

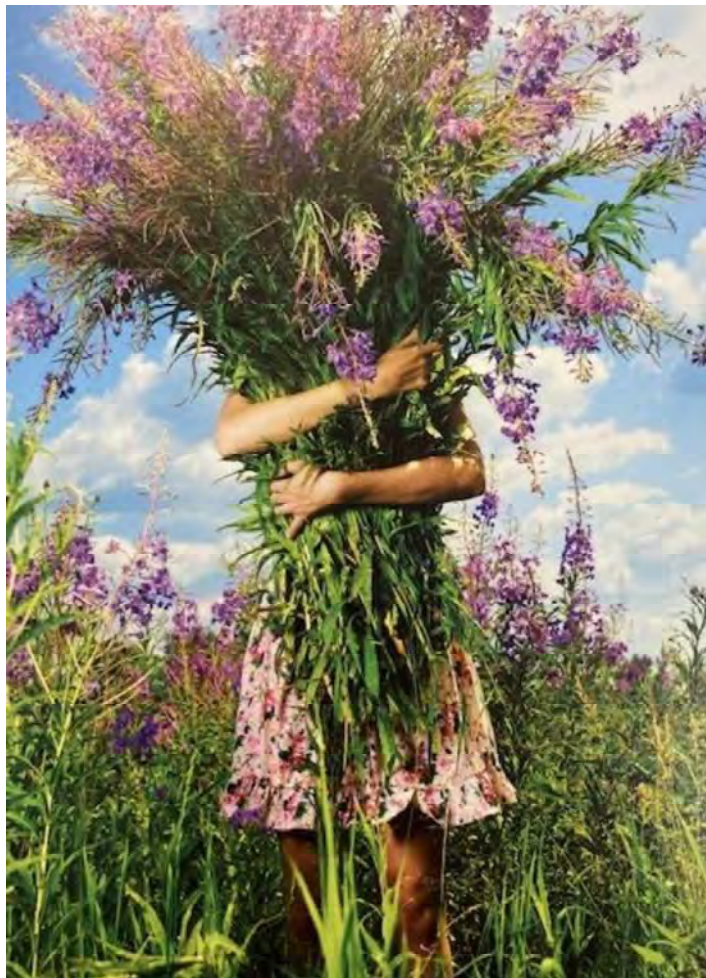
Warm and welcoming God
You shape us and name us
And fill us with wonder
And you hold us in love

Bright, beckoning God
You call us and bless us
And fill us with longing
And hold us in love

Strong, revealing God
You comfort us and question us
And fill us with your courage
And you hold us in love

Reading Psalm 126

When the LORD restored the fortunes of Zion,
we were like those who dreamed.
Our mouths were filled with laughter,
our tongues with songs of joy.
Then it was said among the nations,
“The LORD has done great things for them.”
The LORD has done great things for us,
and we are filled with joy.
Restore our fortunes, LORD, like streams in the Negev.
Those who sow with tears will reap with songs of joy.
Those who go out weeping, carrying seed to sow,
will return with songs of joy,
carrying sheaves with them.



Music: Babbling Brook

Reading

Apprehend God in all things,
for God is all things,

Every single creature is full of God
and is a book about God.

Every creature is a word of God.

If I spent enough time with the tiniest creature -
even a caterpillar -
I would never have to prepare a sermon.
So full of God
is every creature.

Meister Eckhart

Reflection

Time of Silence and Exploration of Prayer Stations - 15 minutes
You are invited to explore our healing prayer environment!





Taizé Chant

O Lord, hear my prayer, O Lord, hear my prayer

When I call answer me.

O Lord, hear my prayer, O Lord, hear my prayer

Come and listen to me.

Silent Prayer with the opportunity to come forward to light a candle, or to sit and be prayed for with the following words:

Creator God, present with us now, enter you, body, mind, and spirit, to strengthen you, to heal and bring wholeness and peace to our world.

**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 forever. Amen.**

Music: Birdsong

Reading

Almighty God, Creator:
the morning is yours, rising into fullness.
The summer is yours, dipping into Autumn.
Eternity is yours, dipping into time.
The vibrant grasses, the scent of flowers,
the lichen on the rocks, the tang of seaweed,
all are yours.
Gladly we live in this garden of your creating.

George MacLeod

Closing Blessing

May we go forward from here in peace,
knowing that we are whole in the sight of God
and that God's love is without limits.
Let the risen Christ refresh us with hope
And journey within us towards the new horizon.
Amen

The peace of the earth be with you,
the peace of the heavens too.
The peace of the rivers be with you,
the peace of the oceans too,
Deep peace falling over you,
God's peace growing in you.
And the blessing of God Creator, Redeemer, and Sustainer be with you and
all those you love, both living and departed, now and always.
Amen



Music: Wind in the Trees

*Please feel free to abide in the worship space for as long as you wish.
Refreshments will be served afterwards in the lounge*

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St Mark's website: www.stmarkssheffield.co.uk
Night Service website: www.nightservice.org.uk