Written Service Sunday October 12th 2025
Service of worship for use at home
Prepared by Jan Davies

Nottingham North East Methodist Circuit
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Opening Prayer

Calm O Lord, as you stilled the storm.
Still me O Lord, keep me from all alarm.
Let all tumult within me cease.
Enfold me Lord in your unending peace.

Hymn: 81 from Singing the Faith

Now thank we all our God,
with hearts and hands and voices,
Who wondrous things have done,
in whom this world rejoices;
Who from our mothers' arms
has blessed on our way,
With countless gifts of love
and still is ours today.

O may this bounteous God
through all our life be near us,
With ever joyful hearts
and blessed peace to cheer us;
And keep us in His grace
and guide when perplexed,
And free us from all ill
in this world and the next.

All praise and thanks to God
the Father now be given,
The Son, and Him who reigns
with them in highest heaven,
The one eternal God,
whom earth and heaven adore,
For thus it was is now
and shall be ever more.

Prayer of Adoration, Praise and Thanksgiving

I bow before the Father, who made me.
I bow before the Son, who saved me.
I bow before the Spirit who guides me.
In love and adoration, I give my lips, my heart, my mind and strength.
I bow and adore you, Sacred Three, the Ever One, the Sacred Trinity.

I thank you O Lord for the gifts you give to me.
Each day, each night, on land or at sea.
Whatever the weather, fair, wild or calm,
For your eye keeps me from all harm.

Eternal God, you are the power that created the universe,
You are the energy that fires everything and the strength that sustains our world.
Eternal Father, you are the love that encircles us,
You are the grace that enables us and the truth that enlightens us.
Eternal Saviour, you are the glory of the cross of Christ,
You are the hope of the resurrection, and the life of the Holy Spirit.
God of love, power and might, **Amen.**

Old Testament Reading: Psalm 8 (Taken from Singing the Faith – from the Canticles and Psalms)

1. O Lord our Sovereign, how majestic is your name in all the earth!
   You have set your glory above the heavens.
2. Out of the mouths of babes and infants you have founded a bulwark because of your foes.
   To silence the enemy and the avenger.
3. When I look at your heavens, the work fingers,
   The moon and stars that you have established;
4. **What are human beings that you are mindful of them, mortals that you care for them?**
5. Yet you have made them a little lower than God and have crowned them with glory and honour.
6. **You have given them dominion over the work for your hands; and have put all things under their feet,**
7. All sheep and oxen, and all the beasts of the field,
8. **The birds of the air, and the fish the sea and whatever passes along the paths of the sea.**
9. **O Lord our Sovereign, how majestic is your name in all the earth!**

New Testament Reading: Revelation 22:1-5 (Taken from Good News Version)
The angel also showed me the river of the of the water of life, sparkling like crystal, and coming from the throne of God and of the Lamb and flowing down the middle of the city's street. On each side of the river was the tree of life, which bears fruit twelve times a year, once for each month; and its leaves are for the healing of the nations. Nothing that is under God's curse will be found in the city. The throne of God and of the Lamb will be in the city, and His servants will worship Him. They will see His face and His name will be written on their foreheads.
There shall be no more night, and they will not need lamps or sunlight, because the Lord God will be their light, and they will rule as kings forever and ever

Hymn: 104 from Singing the Faith

God moves in a mysterious way
His wonders to perform;
He plants His footsteps in the sea
and rides upon the storm.

Come all you saints, fresh courage take,
the clouds you so much dread,
Are big with mercy, and shall break
in blessings on your head.

Judge not the Lord by feeble sense,
but trust Him for His grace;
Behind a frowning providence
He hides a smiling face.

His purposes will ripen fast,
unfolding every hour;
The bud may have a bitter taste,
but sweet will be the flower.

Blind unbelief is sure to err,
and scan His works in vain;
God is his own interpreter,
and He will make it plain.

Sermon:
Francis of Assisi wrote "*Canticle of the creatures"* and he wrote these words before the word 'ecology' was even invented. And bear in mind that he was writing in the 13th century! I have chosen those verses that deal with our earth to illustrate the point that ecology deals primarily with anything to do with our earth.

"Be praised, my Lord, for brother wind

And by air and clouds, clear skies and all weathers,
By which you give sustenance to your creatures."

The wind and air is badly polluted. And this in turn impacts badly on the wild life. The air is poisoned and all the creatures suffer because of it. Did you know that the humble hedgehogs, which we remember from our youth, are dying out simply because of farming methods? This can also be seen in countries which are overcrowded. We can shake our heads and think that this does not impact on us. But it does. We are responsible of allowing this to happen – we are all responsible.

"Be Praised, my Lord, for sister water,
Who is very useful and humble and precious and pure."

The water of our rivers and seas are very badly polluted. No longer can we say that this has nothing to do with us. The fish in the seas are dying, as are the birds of the air. All the animals are dying out or are endangered. And yet we do nothing about it.

"Be praised, my Lord, for brother fire,
By whom the night is illumined for us,
He is beautiful and cheerful, and full of power and strength."

Wild fires are burning out of control. Mind you, this was true of the 13th century as it is in 21st Century. All houses were built of wood in the 13th century, as are the houses of the poor across the world. Only the very rich can afford to live in houses built of brick or stone, so houses built of wood, often go up in flames. So perhaps it is fanciful to say that *"He is beautiful and cheerful, and full of power and strength."*

"Be praised, my Lord for sister, our mother earth,
Who sustains and governs us and produces divers fruits and coloured flowers and grass."

What was not possible, in the 13th century, for them to know about climate change and what we are doing to the planet because of the greenhouse gases that we are pumping into the atmosphere and the dreadful effect that we are having on the wild life?

However, it is not all doom and gloom. There are many people, throughout the world, who want to get together to act on our behalf to stop the degradation of our planet and to make our world as our God planned it. That is what the Kingdom of God is all about. We look forward to the day when all would be as God planned.

Meditation (written by Jan Davies in 'The Light Shines in the Darkness')

God the Father – the creative energy of the mind of God. Somehow the word 'Father' seems too small. You Lord conceived and brought to birth the whole universe; you fathered all time and space and only now are we able to catch a glimpse of wonders beyond our imagination.

We sail the solar winds and delve deep into the outer reaches of space and time, able to see for the first time in human history stellar nurseries where stars are born and super nova's where stars die and are reborn, a thousand light years away.

*The grandeur of the nebular and spiral galaxies rise up out of the deep darkness of space, displaying colours and formations that delight our eyes – the delight **your** eyes Lord. Why else would you have created them?*

We speed on past binary stars and multi coloured stellar dust clouds and to a million other galaxies as they move away from us at speeds that leave us breathless.

The glories of the heavens are yours Lord. Isaiah glimpsed a fraction of your glory and hid his face. We see so much more, understand so much more of your creative energy. We should stand in awe and wonder.

And we are star children, made of star dust. The elements that made the stars are in us all. We are interwoven into the universe that you brought into being and hold in the palm of your hand.

And Lord we cannot ignore the evidence of your creative power for you reveal your fatherhood in the world around us. We experience your power in the crashing waves, the destruction of the hurricane and the violence of the volcano.

Yet you are also revealed in the intricate detail of the flower or the butterfly and the gentle caress of the breeze on a summer's day.

We delight in your creation Lord and stand in awe of your power. But how can we know a God Like this? So great is the mystery which surrounds you that you are unknowable to your creatures – until you cast off all but love and take on human form.

Prayers of Confession:
We confess the times when we have denied the power of your love and sought our own power through manipulation and domination.

Forgive us and fill us with your love.

We confess the times we have not witnessed for you love and truth, But blindly followed the powerful of this world, though they have led us into injustice, fear and conflict.

Forgive us and fill us with your love.

We confess the times when we have despised the weak and powerless: times we have exploited or just ignored them.

Forgive us and fill us with your love.

We confess the times when we ignored the warnings about the environment.
We confess the times when we have thrown away the packaging or simply forgotten. And we confess that have thrown away the soft plastic instead of finding where we could recycle it.

Forgive us and fill us with your love. **Amen**

Prayers of Intercession:
Holy and Blessed God, we bring to you all who suffer this day; who suffer because of starvation or homelessness. We pray for all refugees who are fleeing from homes which are being bombed – even though they don't want to leave.

Lighten our darkness O Lord

Holy and Blessed God we bring to you all those who know nothing but war and violence. We pray especially for all in Ukraine and Russia who have lost loved ones. We also pray for all those in Sudan, Yemen who are suffering because of rebels who are fighting and we pray for all those who live with cruel dictators.

Lighten our Darkness O Lord

Holy and Blessed God we bring to you our home churches and all of those who suffer from ill health, grief, or loneliness.

Lighten our Darkness O Lord

You have heard all our prayers. It is your wish that all suffering should cease so it is with great encouragement that we can say may your Kingdom come and your will be done on earth as it is heaven.
Amen

Hymn: 449 from Singing the Faith
Lord of creation, to you be all praise!
Most mighty your working, most wondrous your ways!
Your glory and might are beyond us to tell,
and yet in the heart of the humble you dwell.

Lord of all power I give you my will,
in joyful obedience your tasks to fulfil.
Your bondage is freedom; your service is song;
And held in keeping, my weakness is strong.

Lord of all wisdom, I give you my mind,
rich truth that surpasses my knowledge to find:
What eye has not seen and what ear has not heard
is taught by your Spirit and shines from your word.

Lord of all bounty, I give you my heart;
I praise and adore you for all you impart;
Your love to inspire me, your counsel to guide,
your presence to shield me, whatever betide.

Lord of all being, I give you my all;
if I should disown you, I stumble and fall;
But led in your service your word to obey,
I'll walk in your freedom to the end of the way.

Final Prayer said together
The Father is in this house;
Nothing need we fear.
Christ is in this house;
He loves us so dear.
The Spirit is in this house;
Listening to our prayer.
He is always very near.
Amen