



ST STEPHEN'S UNITING CHURCH

197 Macquarie St, Sydney

An Oasis of Christian Worship, Thought and Action

Minister:Rev. Ken Day
Director of Music:Mark Quarmby
Choral Conductor:Dr David Hood
Organ Scholar:Benjamin McKenzie



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www.ssms.org.au

18 September 2016 – 10 am

Pentecost 18

Morning Worship

Season of Creation: Flora and Fauna Sunday

Led by Rev. Ken Day

SOME HELPFUL NOTES FOR YOU ABOUT THE WAY THIS WORSHIP SERVICE FLOWS:

- **CHILDREN** are welcome here. If you have a pram, there are aisles beside the walls where you can 'park' your pram, if that helps. Also, there is more pram space at the back of the church where there is a wider gap. Children do not disturb us, and we are very happy for you to explain to your children what is happening during the service.
- We stand to sing. In the Order of Service it will say other places **WHERE WE STAND UP**, if you are able.
- **HYMNS** are numbered and found in the red hymn book *Together in Song*, or printed in the Order of Service.
- If the **LORD'S SUPPER** (communion) is being celebrated, (there will be a white cloth on the communion table) everyone of every age and background is welcome to share in the supper with us. We serve bread (and gluten free bread is available if you indicate to the server) and grape juice.
- **TEXT IN BOLD** is to be said by the congregation.
- It is the tradition at St Stephen's to refrain from talking during the **PRELUDE** and **POSTLUDE** as these form part of our worship.
- After the service has concluded, you are most welcome to join us downstairs in the hall for **MORNING TEA**. Please use the stairs at each end of the vestibule.
- **TOILETS** are located downstairs below the vestibule. A baby changing table is located in the women's toilet area.
- For those with **IMPAIRED HEARING** a hearing loop is available in the church. Please switch your hearing aid to the 'T' position.



Blessing of the Flowers

The Gathering of the People of God

Organ Prelude

'Flower Duet' from Lakme
Léo Delibes (1836 - 1891)

Call to Worship

Processional Hymn 168*For the fruits of all creation*
(Ar Hyd Y Nos)

Please be seated

Prayers of Confession and Absolution

As we come home to earth.
Christ, have mercy.

As we share earth with our kin.
Christ, have mercy.

As we care for species in danger.
Christ, have mercy.

God, our Creator,
we celebrate with all living creatures today.
Help us to see your presence,
not only in human history
but also in the wonder of plants and animals,
your creation on this Earth.

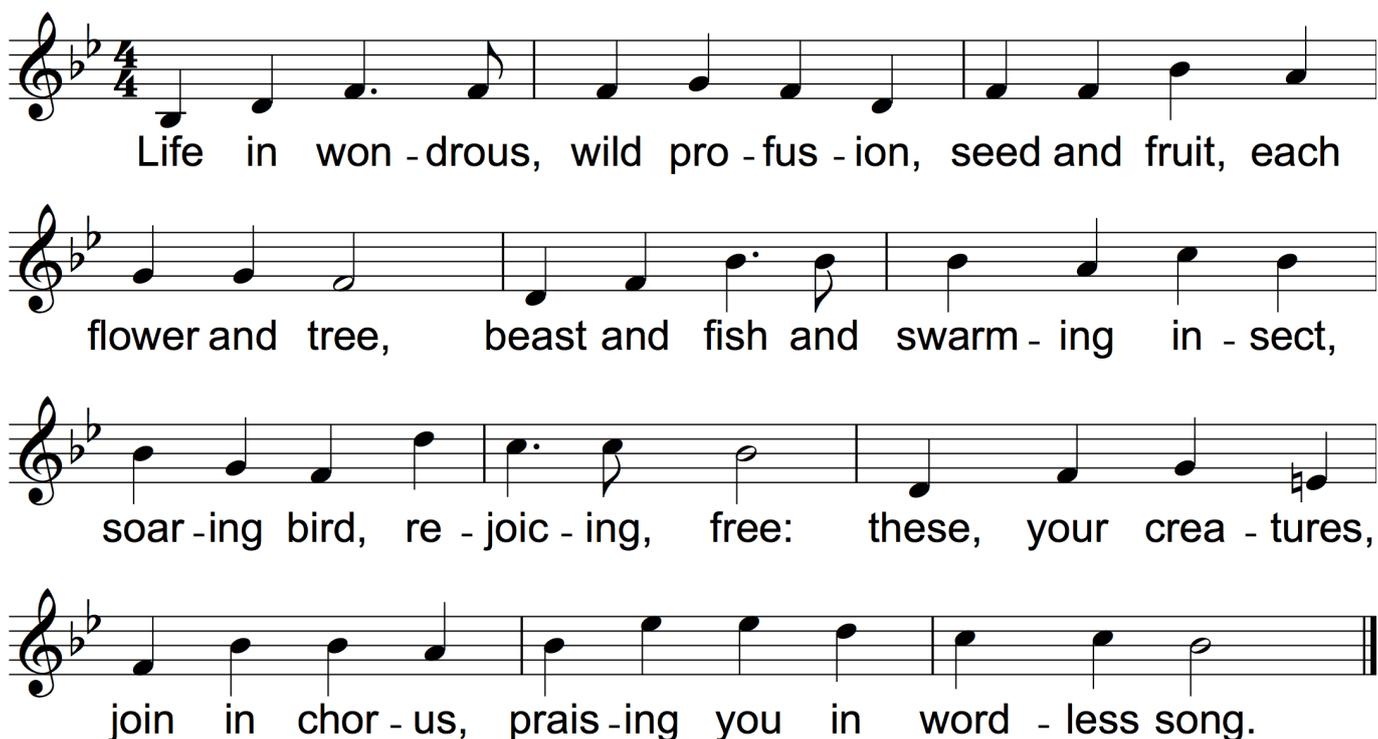
**Forgive our destruction of whole species.
Forgive our cruelty to creatures.
Teach us to hear the good news
of God's loving care
ringing through the kingdoms of the wild.
Open our eyes to behold
the mysteries of your Wisdom
implanted in all creatures.
In the name of Christ
who fills heaven and earth.**

**Glory to God in the highest!
And on earth peace with all creation!**

**Peace and forgiveness
in our hearts and our lives.**

**A new start in caring for God's flora and fauna
A new start with the Creator Spirit of Christ.**

People of fresh beginnings, let us stand in praise and sing to God:



Life in won - drous, wild pro - fus - ion, seed and fruit, each
flower and tree, beast and fish and swarm - ing in - sect,
soar - ing bird, re - joic - ing, free: these, your crea - tures,
join in chor - us, prais - ing you in word - less song.

Please be seated

Welcome

Ministry and mission news, celebrations and pastoral prayer.

Passing of the Peace

The peace of the Lord be always with you.

And also with you.

The Service of the Word

Prayer for Illumination

Bible Reading

A reading from the Hebrew Scriptures: ***Genesis 1:11-12, 20-23***

Listen for the Word of God to you:

¹¹ Then God said, ‘Let the earth put forth vegetation: plants yielding seed, and fruit trees of every kind on earth that bear fruit with the seed in it.’ And it was so. ¹² The earth brought forth vegetation: plants yielding seed of every kind, and trees of every kind bearing fruit with the seed in it. And God saw that it was good.

²⁰ And God said, ‘Let the waters bring forth swarms of living creatures, and let birds fly above the earth across the dome of the sky.’ ²¹ So God created the great sea monsters and every living creature that moves, of every kind, with which the waters swarm, and every winged bird of every kind. And God saw that it was good.

²² God blessed them, saying, ‘Be fruitful and multiply and fill the waters in the seas, and let birds multiply on the earth.’ ²³ And there was evening and there was morning, the fifth day.

In this is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Anthem

Thou Visitest the Earth

Text: Psalm 65: 9 & 12

Music: Maurice Greene (1696-1755)

“Thou visitest the earth and blessest it,
and crownest the year with Thy goodness.”

The Gospel reading for today is from ***Matthew 6:25-34***

²⁵ ‘Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink, or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothing? ²⁶ Look at the birds of the air; they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not of more value than they? ²⁷ And can any of you by worrying add a single hour to your span of life? ²⁸ And why do you worry about clothing? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow; they neither toil nor spin, ²⁹ yet I tell you, even Solomon in all his glory was not clothed like one of these. ³⁰ But if God so clothes the grass of the field, which is alive today and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, will he not much more clothe you—you of little faith? ³¹ Therefore do not worry, saying, “What will we eat?” or “What will we drink?” or “What

will we wear?” ³² For it is the Gentiles who strive for all these things; and indeed your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things. ³³ But strive first for the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.

³⁴ ‘So do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will bring worries of its own. Today’s trouble is enough for today.

For the Gospel of the Lord
Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Hymn 156*Morning has broken* (Bunessan)

Sermon

Responding to the Word

Hymn of Promise (Promise)

The image shows three staves of musical notation for the hymn 'Hymn of Promise'. The music is written in treble clef with a key signature of one flat (B-flat) and a 3/4 time signature. The melody consists of eighth and quarter notes, with some notes marked with an accent (/). The first staff contains six measures, the second staff contains six measures, and the third staff contains six measures, ending with a double bar line.

In the bulb there is a flower; in the seed, an apple tree;
In cocoons, a hidden promise: butterflies will soon be free!
In the cold and snow of winter there's a spring that waits to be,
Unrevealed until its season, something God alone can see.

There's a song in every silence, seeking word and melody;
There's a dawn in every darkness, bringing hope to you and me.
From the past will come the future; what it holds, a mystery,
Unrevealed until its season, something God alone can see.

In our end is our beginning; in our time, infinity;
In our doubt there is believing; in our life, eternity,
In our death, a resurrection; at the last, a victory,
Unrevealed until its season, something God alone can see.

Prayers of the People

- including the blessing of the flowers

Let us pray together:

**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.
Save us from the time of trial
and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours
now and for ever.
Amen.**

All things bright and beautiful

Soloist: Ruth Lockley

Words: Mrs C. F. Alexander (1823-1895)

Music: John Rutter (1945 -)

All Things Bright & Beautiful
All creatures great and small,
All things wise and wonderful,
The Lord God made them all.

Each little flower that opens,
Each little bird that sings,
He made their glowing colours,
He made their tiny wings.

The purple-headed mountain,
The river running by,
The sunset and the morning,
That brightens up the sky.

The cold wind in the weather,
The pleasant summer sun,
The ripe fruits in the garden -
He made them every one.

He gave us eyes to see them,
And lips that we might tell
How great is God Almighty,
Who has made all things well.

Offering Hymn 203*Fairest Lord Jesus* (St. Elisabeth)

The Sending Forth of the People of God

Blessing

Dismissal

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.
In the name of Christ.

Sung Threefold Amen

Organ Postlude

March in D

David N. Johnson (1922 - 1987)



Adapted from *Uniting in Worship 2* (2005)
Bible Readings taken from the *New Revised Standard Version* (1989)