**Morning Praise Earth Sunday 17 October 2021**

**Opening prayer**

Blessed are you, God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, you have blessed us with every spiritual blessing; enable us by your power to be true to our calling and live holy and blameless lives before you all our days, through Jesus Christ our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, for ever and ever. **Amen**

**Confession** Let us admit to God the sin which always confronts us.

**Lord God, we have sinned against you; we have done evil in your sight. We are sorry and**

**repent.** **Have mercy on us according to your love. Wash away our wrongdoing and cleanse us**

**from our sin.** **Renew a right spirit within us** **and restore us to the joy of your salvation,** **through**

**Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen** cf Psalm 51

**Absolution** May the Father of all mercies cleanse us from our sins, and restore us in his image

to the praise and glory of his name, through Jesus Christ our Lord.  **Amen.**

### Bible Readings Psalm 104:1-9, 24-35 Mark 10:35-45

**Reflection by Ruth**

In this reading, James and John want to turn Jesus’ messianic journey to Jerusalem into a march to glory – a glory in which they will sit on either side of him when he reigns as king. They have clearly heard all the language about suffering, death and rising again simply as a set of pictures, perhaps meaning ‘It’s going to be tough, but we’re going to come out on top.’ But the cross is not, for Jesus or for Mark, a difficult episode to be got through on the way to a happy ending. It is precisely God’s way of standing worldly power and authority on its head. When, at the end of this passage, Jesus quotes the servant song (‘…to give his life as a ransom for many’), he is making the point, with which Isaiah would have emphatically agreed, that the kingdom of God turns the world’s ideas of power and glory upside down and inside out.  
It is precisely God’s way of standing worldly power and authority on its head. When, at the end of this passage, Jesus quotes the servant song (‘…to give his life as a ransom for many’), he is making the point, with which Isaiah would have emphatically agreed, that the kingdom of God turns the world’s ideas of power and glory upside down and inside out.  
The final ‘seed’ is provided by Jesus’ wry comment about those who will sit at his right and his left. James and John don’t know what they’re asking for, but Mark’s reader, after a few chapters of waiting in suspense, will discover. When Jesus ‘sits in his glory’, with one at his right and another at his left, it will be on the cross. Mark has given us a stark picture both of what true kingly glory looks like and of what Jesus’ death will mean. We must now let him water these seeds and watch them start to grow. As we do so, we must remember again that one of Mark’s underlying themes throughout these chapters is that of following Jesus. When we look at the picture he’s drawing, we too may be amazed, horrified and afraid. But Jesus is going up to Jerusalem, turning the world’s values and power-systems on their heads, setting off to give his life as a ransom for many. If we want to receive what he has to offer, we have no choice but to follow.

**Affirmation of faith**

Do you believe and trust in God the Father, source of all being and life, the one for whom we exist?

**We believe and trust in him.**

Do you believe and trust in God the Son, who took our human nature, died for us and rose again?

**We believe and trust in him.**

Do you believe and trust in God the Holy Spirit, who gives life to the people of God and makes Christ

known in the world? **We believe and trust in him. This is the faith of the Church.**

**This is our faith. We believe and trust in one God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Amen.**

**Prayers of intercession for Earth Sunday led by Philip**

Father, we thank you for the beauty of your creation; for the world and all that is in it.

We know that we have not treated it with respect. We have taken from it and neglected it. We have damaged it and neglected it.

Father we know that we have lived as though the earth and all that was on it was there simply to satisfy our wishes and our ever increasing wants that we have persuaded ourselves are needs.

Father now we are beginning to see the consequences of our actions. We see the pollution of our lakes and rivers, even the air that we breathe. We long for the green fields that have been built upon, the forests that have been destroyed and turned to plantations. We see the litter, the plastic waste that is collecting in our oceans, even in the remotest places.

Now Father, we are also learning of the damage we have done to our atmosphere, we are learning about the consequences of endlessly burning fossil fuels to power our industries, transport and manufacturing.

Father we can feel so helpless in the face of the scale of the pollution, of the damage already done, we feel so small. What difference can we possibly make to a world that is poisoning itself?

So Father, we ask you to instil in us all a much better respect for your creation. Help us all to take responsibility for our own impact on the planet. Help us all to ask and understand what we can do individually, and as a community, and as a country, to take responsibility for how we live, for the footprints we will leave behind for our children and future generations. Help us to consider how we look after this planet before we strive to reach out to others.

Father, as every journey starts with a single step, give us the strength, the determination, to make our own difference to how we treat your creation, that collectively we might live closer lives to you and value the incredible world we live in.

We ask for your help in our daily lives Lord. Help us to do what we know to be right, forgive and encourage when we fail. Embolden us to be what you what us to be.

We ask for your help for those who are sick or suffering. Help us all to reach out and care. Help our doctors, nurses and care home workers. Help those who care for family members or friends.

We pray for this church Father. We pray for discernment in our discussions with the Diocese. We pray for encouragement and faith in the months ahead.

**Merciful Father, accept these prayers for the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ our Saviour. Amen**

**The Lord’s Prayer** As our Saviour taught us, so we pray

***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 today our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us. Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, the power and the glory forever and ever. Amen***

**Closing prayer**

God give you grace to become the people He has called you to be,

that you may live and work to his praise and glory,

and the blessing of God Almighty, Father, Son and Holy Spirit

be with us and remain with us always. **Amen.**

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