



**Welcome to worship at  
The Church at Carrs Lane  
16<sup>th</sup> January 2022**



**Worship is led by visitors from Christian Climate Action, Christine Tudor Jones and Caroline Homan.  
Music is provided by Tim Batty and the readers are Martin and Amina Stokes**

God welcomes us all, whoever, wherever we are, to worship

Our Call to worship includes some climate change information: *Over the last two hundred years, since the beginning of the industrial revolution in Europe, there has been a rise in average global temperatures of more than 1 degree – a rise which we now describe as global warming or climate change. Climate scientists now agree this rise is already being felt in most parts of the world. Although no-one really knows exactly what the consequences are, they say that if global temperatures continue their rise to up to 2 degrees above average many of the changes we are seeing are likely to be irreversible and their impact will be disastrous for most countries.*

**Hymn 727 (Singing the Faith): God in his love for us**

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| <b>1 God in his love for us lent us this planet,<br/>gave it a purpose in time and in space :<br/>small as a spark from the fire of creation,<br/>cradle of life and the home of our race.</b> | <b>3 Long have our human wars ruined its harvest ;<br/>long has earth bowed to the terror of force ;<br/>long have we wasted what others have needed,<br/>poisoned the fountain of life at its source.</b> |
| <b>2 Thanks be to God for its bounty and beauty,<br/>life that sustains us in body and mind :<br/>plenty for all, if we learn how to share it,<br/>riches undreamed-of to fathom and find.</b> | <b>4 Earth is the Lord's : it is ours to enjoy it,<br/>ours, as God's stewards, to farm and defend.<br/>From its pollution, misuse, and destruction,<br/>good Lord, deliver us, world without end !</b>    |

Fred Pratt Green (1903–2000)

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*In the Beginning* (read by Martin and Amina Stokes)

Voice 1: In the beginning, God created.

Voice 2: God spoke, and created the heavens and the earth; light and darkness, day and night; land and sea; sun, moon and stars. And God saw that it was good.

Voice 1: In the beginning, God created.

Voice 2: God spoke, and plants grew: trees and shrubs, flowers and fruit. And God saw that it was good.

Voice 1: In the beginning, God created.

Voice 2: God spoke again, and the seas filled with fish, birds flew in the sky, and animals of all kinds roamed the earth. And God saw that it was good.

Voice 1: In the beginning, God created.

Voice 2: God spoke, and created human beings, men, women and children, created in the image of God, given the world to care for. God saw everything that God had made, and indeed it was very good.

**Prayer of Praise:**

Creative and ever-present God, as we gather this morning we praise you for the ground beneath our feet, the air that we breathe, the sun that warms and the rain that replenishes. All life is a gift from you, creator of all and we worship you.

Creative and ever-living Christ, we praise you for your life of truth, of healing, of noticing and of renewing. When we try to destroy your love with death-dealing, still your love is stronger, your way is greater and we worship your resurrection life.

Creative and ever-hopeful Spirit, we praise you that you are within and far beyond us. When we are despairing, you offer hope; when we are fearful, you offer love; when we are selfish, you offer forgiveness and a new way and we worship you.

Loving God inspire our worship and our lives that we may learn and share your wisdom, truth and creativity this day. Amen

***Climate change is happening because we (the industrialised nations) are burning carbon on an unsustainable scale.***

- *The fossil fuels we burn (oil/petroleum, coal and natural gas) are responsible for 85% of the carbon dioxide emitted into the atmosphere.*
- *Average world temperatures are rising and the world's ice on land and sea is melting at a faster and faster rate. As a result world sea levels are also rising more quickly. For instance, once the ice sheet on Greenland has gone, the sea level will have risen over 7 metres. Our current coastlines and coastal cities are all in danger of disappearing.*
- *Rising temperatures are also creating heavier rainfall in some areas and longer periods of drought in others.*
- *So we urgently need to agree to leave fossil fuels in the ground and we need to use less energy.*

Speaker 1 from Christian Climate Action explains to us who CCL are and what are they doing or what they hope to inspire us to do as a response to climate change

**Hymn 729 (*Singing the Faith*): Touch the earth lightly**

**1 Touch the earth lightly,  
use the earth gently,  
nourish the life of the world in our care :  
gift of great wonder,  
ours to surrender,  
trust for the children tomorrow will bear.**

**2 We who endanger,  
who create hunger,  
agents of death for all creatures that live,  
we who would foster  
clouds of disaster -  
God of our planet, forestall and forgive !**

**3 Let there be greening,  
birth from the burning,  
water that blesses and air that is sweet,  
health in God's garden,  
hope in God's children,  
regeneration that peace will complete.**

**4 God of all living,  
God of all loving,  
God of the seedling, the snow and the sun,  
teach us, deflect us,  
Christ reconnect us,  
using us gently, and making us one.**

Shirley Erena Murray (b. 1931)

Speaker 2 from CCA tells us a little about the theology which inspires CCA

**Joy in Enough Confession** (read by Martin and Amina Stokes)

Voice 1: Our climate is changing, and we are changing it. We confess our carbon footprints, our failure to consider the consequences of our actions, our slowness to react. We are sorry for all the times we knew the right thing to do, but chose convenience.

Voice 2: Your earth is exploited, and we are complicit in its exploitation. Species are lost, soil erodes, fish stocks decline, resources dwindle. We confess that many of us have taken too much, and not considered the needs of future generations.

Voice 1: We have become consumers. We have turned a blind eye to greed. We confess our hunger for more, and our failure to appreciate what we already have. We live in a time of unparalleled luxury, and we are sorry that we have not been more grateful.

Voice 2: The poor are left behind, even in this age of plenty. Human rights are pushed aside for profit. Wealth accumulates for the rich while the poorest still do not have what they need. We confess our apathy to injustice, and our haste in judging others.

Voice 1: This is not who you made us to be. We have not been good caretakers of your garden Earth. We have not loved our neighbours. Forgive us, creator God.

Voices 1 and 2: Forgive us. Renew us. Inspire us.

Voice 2: And in your strength, God, we declare:

Voice1: Enough climate change: help us to take responsibility. Give us the wisdom to live appropriately, the urgency to act, and the courage to make changes. Give us the voice to call for change from our leaders, and the perseverance to keep asking.

Voice 2: Enough consumerism: give us what we need, God our provider. Then help us to find satisfaction and contentment. Help us to be grateful and generous.

Voice 1: Enough inequality: nobody should be left behind. You care for the poor, and we want to follow your example. Make your church a living example of equity and inclusion, and a powerful advocate for justice and sharing.

Voice 2: We thank you for your kindness and your mercy. We look to your promise of restoration, and we move forward. Give us the strength to speak and to act - not out of guilt or duty, for we are forgiven and we are loved.

Voice 1: Instead, we speak and act out of joy:

- joy in the living hope of knowing you
- joy in serving each other
- joy in the beauty and diversity of creation, your gift to us
- joy in your provision and your care – joy in enough

Voice 2: In your name we pray, Amen

We pause to remember our interfaith links with Birmingham Progressive Footsteps celebrating *The New Year for Trees* today and the challenges offered by Footsteps Birmingham.

#### **Hymn 678 (*Singing the Faith*): Come, all who look to God today**

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| <b>1</b> Come, all who look to God today,<br>stretch out your hands, enlarge your mind,<br>together share his living way<br>where all who humbly seek will find. | <b>4</b> Bring your traditions' richest store,<br>your hymns and rites and cherished creeds ;<br>explore our visions, pray for more,<br>since God delights to meet fresh needs. |
| <b>2</b> Come, all who will from every place ;<br>find here new powers of unity,<br>accept the Spirit's strong embrace<br>which binds us in community.           | <b>5</b> Come, trust in God and live in peace,<br>anticipate that final light<br>when strife and bigotry shall cease,<br>and faith be lost in praise and sight.                 |

Richard G. Jones (b. 1926)

What can we do? *In the face of a problem of such immensity it is difficult not to feel utterly helpless and hopeless. However, here are some suggestions I have found in a book by Mike Berners-Lee called 'There is no Planet B', which are practical and encouraging:*

- *I can exert what influence I have at the ballot box, on social media, in the workplace, and, without alienating friends and family, in every social situation.*
- *I can support politicians, organisations and companies that seem to be trying to be open and truthful about climate change. I can be critical and discerning about ‘green washers’ (those who are getting on the bandwagon without actually doing anything).*
- *I can try my best to be a role model for sustainable and fair consumption for example driving and flying less, reducing home energy consumption, switching from fossil fuels, reducing meat and dairy, buying less new stuff while appreciating what I have more, understanding my supply chains, repairing things where I can.*
- *I shouldn’t beat myself up when I find myself making daily compromises – I can’t do this on my own.*
- *And here is something I should think about – is it time to become a protester? And how?*

Prayers of solidarity and concern including the response: **Your kin-dom come Your will be done on earth as in heaven**, concluding with The Lord’s Prayer

### **Hymn 725 (*Singing the Faith*): As the Glory of Creation**

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| <p><b>1 As the glory of creation<br/>and the thrill of human love,<br/>as the wonder at a cradle,<br/>at the things that live and move,<br/>higher still, uncaught in word,<br/>is the glory of the Lord.</b></p>              | <p><b>3 As the glory of the future<br/>and the teaching of the past,<br/>as the challenge of the present<br/>and the here-and-now of Christ,<br/>higher still, uncaught in word,<br/>is the glory of the Lord.</b></p> |
| <p><b>2 As the glory of a concert<br/>and the skill of those who play,<br/>as the joy of book and painting,<br/>shapes in stone and bronze and clay,<br/>higher still, uncaught in word,<br/>is the glory of the Lord.</b></p> | <p><b>4 In the life and work of Jesus,<br/>in his dying on a cross,<br/>in the great surprise of Easter<br/>giving people gain for loss,<br/>here we catch and taste the Word<br/>spelling glory to the Lord !</b></p> |

Fred Kaan (1929–2009)

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Blessing