

Order of Service – Rogation Sunday

The country parson loves procession (Rogation) & maintains it, because there are contained therein four manifest advantages...first, a blessing of God for the fruits of the field; secondly justice in the preservation of bounds; thirdly, charity in loving walking & neighbourly accompanying one another; fourthly, mercy in relieving the poor by a liberal distribution & largess. George Herbert

Welcome and Introduction

Today is Rogation Sunday, when we process around our boundaries and ask (Latin - rogare - to ask) God's blessing on our crops. We reflect upon our responsibility to care for God's earth, and for those people less fortunate than ourselves.

We're beginning in the **grounds of St James** to think first about the glory of God's creation and our responsibility for it

Reading : Genesis 1 (children's version)

Questions to ponder:

1. **Adults:** Christian Aid Week 2020 was due to focus upon 'climate justice' before the pandemic struck the world and the need to respond to that catastrophe became paramount. Has the pandemic helped you to stop being busy and appreciate God's creation better?
2. **Children:** we're using the rainbow as a symbol to thank our NHS for looking after us at this time. Could you draw a picture of a rainbow and send it to us so that we can forward it to someone who has to self-isolate at this time? Send your pictures to the office and we'll take it from there.

Prayers : Confession and Forgiveness

Let us ask God's forgiveness for our failure to care for his creation:

God, our Father, we are sorry that we forget that the earth is yours, and that we are responsible for it's well-being. Help us to become better stewards of your creation, and to try to share its resources more fairly amongst all your children. Amen.

HYMN - He's got the whole world

In a position facing fields with crops

Leader O let the earth

All **Bless the Lord**

Leader O let all that grows in the ground

All **Bless the Lord**

Leader O let all who care for God's world

All **Bless the Lord**

Leader O let the people of God

All **Bless the Lord**

Reading : Deuteronomy 8:11-14,17-18

Questions to ponder:

1. **Adults:** our relationship with God's earth is perhaps at a critical phase with regard to climate change. How can we care better for those who earn their living by producing our food? Do you take care to see where the food you buy is produced? Does it matter? How can we work for a fairer distribution of the earth's resources?
2. **Children:** some of us are trying extra hard this year to grow sunflowers to cheer everyone up. Could you try and grow one? If you need some seeds contact the office and we'll send you some. If you can't, draw one and send us the picture via the office.

Leader Let us pray

O God, from whom all good things do come, make us truly thankful for all the blessings of this life; and give us the wisdom and the will to share the earth's resources more fairly across the whole world, that everyone might have enough to eat and drink. Amen

God our Father, whose will it is that the earth should bear its fruit in their seasons; bless the labours of those who work in the field. Bless the increase of crops and grain and fruit-bearing trees, that wholesome food may be shared and enjoyed by all your people. Amen.

HYMN - Think of a world

In a position facing water and fields of animals, birds & other creatures

Leader O let the birds of the air

All Bless the Lord

Leader O you whales and all that move in the waters

All Bless the Lord

Leader O let the beasts and cattle

All Bless the Lord

Leader O let the whole earth

All Bless the Lord. Praise him and magnify him forever.

Reading Psalm 147: 7 - 11

Questions to ponder:

1. **Adults:** one of last week's Christian Aid prayers really struck a chord with a parishioner who was horrified to think that a lot of the world's population do not have enough water to wash their hands to escape the Coronavirus. How can we help to redress this issue, when we are suffering floods and they don't have enough even to drink fresh water every day?
2. **Children:** every time you wash your hands this week, say the Lord's Prayer slowly instead of singing Happy Birthday twice.

Leader Let us pray :-

May God's blessing shower upon all his creatures
May peace pervade the whole creation
May there be an abundance of plants we use;
May humankind prosper and animals flourish.
Bless all living things, O Lord.

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

HYMN : If I were a butterfly

THE BLESSING