

Mears Ashby and Hardwick and Sywell with Overstone



**Prayers and Reflections
for use at home**

**Sunday 6 September 2026
Creation in Christ**

Welcome to this week's prayers and reflections. It is a special edition as today marks the start of Creationtide. It is a season dedicated to God as the creator and the sustainer of all life, and to our role as co-carers of the planet we call home. We are celebrating Christ as the one who is renewing and uniting life on Earth.

Enjoy celebrating what a wonderful world God has made.

Every blessing,

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We begin by giving thanks for the beautiful life that is all around us.

What are you thankful for this day?



Think of a world without any flowers,
think of world without any trees,
think of a sky without any sunshine,
think of the air without any breeze.
We thank you, Lord, for flowers and trees
and sunshine,
we thank you, Lord, and praise
your holy name

Doreen Newport
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Prayers and Reflections for use at home in the Week of Prayer for Creation Creation in Christ

PREPARING OURSELVES

Take a moment to be still in God's presence and feel his love. If you are indoors, you may wish to light a candle as a sign of God's love - here, in your room. You may also wish to have a bowl of water ready for the time of letting go. When you are ready, say this opening prayer.

Lord, as I sit and wait in silence,
I place my hopes and dreams,
my fears and concerns,
into your safe and loving hands.
Enfold me with your love,
make my heart beat in time with yours;
in Jesus' name,
I pray. **Amen.**

LETTING GO

If you come to this time of prayer and reflection with any regrets, with things that you wish you had not said, done or been, offer them to God in the silence of your heart. And then, reflect on the words of this next verse.



Think of a world without any animals,
think of a field without any herd,
think of a stream without any fishes,
think of a dawn without any bird.
We thank you, Lord,
for all your living creatures,
we thank you, Lord,
and praise your holy name.



*If you wish, dip your finger into a bowl of water and make the sign of the cross on your palm.
Feel God's forgiveness.*

Our verse invites us to open our eyes and see the wonderful variety of life that is all around us. The Earth is not just ours. It is equally the home of all the wildlife – the creatures great and small – that live in our gardens, hedgerows, fields and woodlands. Like us, they are part of the cycle of life. We live because they live. We thrive because they bless our lives with their lively and life-giving presence. Pause to give thanks for the wildlife that make your heart sing. Dragonflies are one of my summer favourites. What are some of yours?



Creationtide is also when we think of our true place in creation. We are not the creators. We are not the owners of Planet Earth. We are sharers in God's bountiful creation. God calls us to care as he cares. Sadly, all too often we (as a human race) act as though we can do what we like to this precious globe. We forget that we are accountable to God for our actions. We live as though this planet is ours and ours alone. God's creatures, like us, have an equal right to enjoy life in all its fullness. Yet, we destroy and pollute their habitats. Our way of life harms our health too and those of future generations. It is why Creationtide is a time for lamenting as well as celebrating.



*You laid the foundations of the earth,
but we have claimed your world as our own.
All things were created through you and for you,
but we have not lived as those who belong to you.
You make all things new,
but our hope grows dim.
Lord, have mercy.*

PRAYING TODAY'S PRAYER

(The Collect)

Across our villages, this prayer is being said this week. Add your voice to this earthly circle of prayer to our God who loves his creation.

Holy and eternal God,
you are the Maker of heaven and earth,
you are the Word through whom all things were made,
and you are the Spirit, the giver of life:
draw us into the mystery of your love,
that with all creation we may proclaim your praise,
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Our prayer asks God to draw us into his Trinity of love. We acknowledge the Father as the maker of heaven and earth and the universe, the Son as the one who worked alongside his Father to bring our world into being, and the Spirit who gives us life – full and true life. We add our voices to the whole of creation to praise the God who made us with love. When you listen to birdsong... when you see a dog wagging its tale with glee... when you smell the scent of a rose or see a bee drinking in a flower's sweet nectar... we are witnessing creation's praise. Our joy and praise joins with all creation.

Our next verse celebrates the gift of living with others. It is great that we do not have to live on our own.



Think of a world without any people,
think of a street with no one living there,
think of a town without any houses,
no one to love and nobody to care.
We thank you, Lord,
for families and friendships,
we thank you, Lord,
and praise your holy name.

Doreen Newport – CCLI reported

LISTENING TO GOD'S WORD

The Word became flesh

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was with God in the beginning. Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made. In him was life, and that life was the light of all mankind. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

There was a man sent from God whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify concerning that light, so that through him all might believe. He himself was not the light; he came only as a witness to the light.

The true light that gives light to everyone was coming into the world. He was in the world, and though the world was made through him, the world did not recognise him. He came to that which was his own, but his own did not receive him. Yet to all who did receive him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God – children born not of natural descent, nor of human decision or a husband's will, but born of God.

The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the one and only Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.

John 1:1-14

God with us...

This well-known and well-loved passage invites us to imagine the time before there was time. In his Prologue, John takes us back to those precious moments before the Big Bang – the birth of the universe. Before this beginning, there was God – Father, Son and Spirit – who decided to create all that is, the sun and stars and planets and moons. It was an act of love. One of the planets was chosen for a very special role – to be life bearing – and to have a unique relationship with the Father and Son.

Feel the wonder of this moment when time began all those billions of years ago. Imagine the Father and the Son excited by the future possibilities as Earth came into being and started to evolve. We believe that the human race is the pinnacle of Earth's evolution. As Genesis says, 'Let us make humankind in our image, in our likeness, so that they may rule over the fish in the sea and the birds in the sky, over the livestock and all the wild animals, and over all the creatures that move along the ground.' Genesis 1:26.

Give thanks to the Father and the Son through their Spirit of life for the vastness of their creating and for imagining us into being.

Notice too the very special relationship that the Son has always had with the human race. Ponder this as you think of him coming to Earth as the Word made flesh. As a human race, we needed him with us to show us how to live in love and peace and justice: justice for all peoples and, also, for all creatures.

We still do need his help. It is why today we are celebrating God's Son, Jesus Christ, as the one who will unite all living creatures. He is our hope as these timeless words to the Colossians celebrate.

For God was pleased to have all his fullness dwell in him,
and through him to reconcile to himself all things,
whether things on earth or things in heaven,
by making peace through his blood, shed on the cross.

Colossians 1:19-20



You, creator-God, have written
your great name on humankind;
for our growing in your likeness
bring the life of Christ to mind;
that by our response and service
earth its destiny may find.

Fred Kaan (1929-2009)

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OUR PRAYERS

Feel free to use one or more of these prayers and to add your own.

Lord Jesus, as I look at the world around me, I take in all of the life, all of the beauty of your creation. I feel your love for all you have made, your love for me. Lord, accept my love and my praise.

Lord, hear my prayer.

Lord Jesus, as I think of the world's problems – wars and conflicts, droughts and wildfires, pollution and decline in wildlife, it is easy to lose hope. Lord, help me to trust in your plan to unite all living things.

Lord, hear my prayer.

Lord Jesus, as you look at the people around me, you see who is struggling with life. You sense their pain, their loneliness and sadness. You know who is on my heart. Lord, come and lighten their darkness.

Lord, hear my prayer.

Offer your own heartfelt prayers and yearnings, praise and thanksgivings.

The Lord's Prayer

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.**

PRAYER OF BLESSING

A closing prayer of blessing for this week.

O God, you search me and you know me,
all my thoughts and feelings are open to your gaze,
you see the paths I will take before I take them. Guide my daily living.
Bless me and keep my loved ones safe, I pray. **Amen.**