

Devon Churches Green Action



‘OUR DAILY BREAD’

Exeter Cathedral

Saturday 25th September 2010, 12 noon

**A celebration of the gift of Food and a recognition
of the challenges we face in its use...**

Please join in hymns and words in italics

Welcome

Introductory Sentence:

“People were working to produce food from the fields and vineyards in the hills, and in the fertile valley gardens – for the land was much loved.”
(2 Chronicles 26)

Reflective Music (To Christ the Seed)

Short Silence

Our Daily Bread Prayer (ECEN Assembly in Prague)

O Holy God who is present in all heaven and earth, you nurture and care for us in our daily lives. May we live today as if tomorrow matters.

We are called to worship you and live according to ways of peace and justice, and in sustainable communities.

Help us to be good neighbours and to recognise that our relationships are broken and the planet’s eco systems are fractured. We see that the whole creation is struggling with changing conditions and our communities are fragmented by inequality and division.

We recognise your generosity in providing our food. Let us not forget that the world’s food is not equally shared and while some over-eat, others go hungry.

We confess that we have developed a dependency on debt which causes idolatry, insecurity and injustice, and we are losing communities of caring and sharing.

We regret that we are tempted by the idols of death and we forget the vulnerable, preferring our own superficial addictions rather than our deeper potential.

Help us to choose to return to the holiness of each moment and to reject the temptations of excessive greed and speed. May we be delivered from excessive pride that the earth be healed and our lives re-shaped by the grace of your word and spirit.

Forgive us - *we have chosen death*
We long for healing - *now we choose life*

*For the gifts of light, life and love are yours, now and forever
from age to age. Amen.*

Lord’s Prayer: (Martyn Goss)

*Heavenly and earthly God,
May we live our lives according to your reign of peace through
justice:*

- *that there may be food and nourishment for all*
- *that we eradicate the chains of debt from others and from ourselves*
- *that we distribute the resources of life fairly and sustainably*
- *and that we reject evil, being not tempted by status or greed,*

*But remembering that ultimately all power and energy are yours,
now and forever.
Amen.*

Reading: Psalm 111

Hymn: Into our Hands... (Colin Ferguson)
[Tune – Londonderry]

*Into our hands this precious earth is given,
The seas and earth from which all life began,
Because of love our cradle was a forest
The hills and valleys shaped by heavens plan.
This is our home, the gift of God's creation
A holy tenure for each varied race,
A place of dreams and fruitful inspiration
Where God is seen in every human face.*

*Here is a harvest fit for all people,
Here is a place for everyone on earth,
And here is God revealing all his mysteries,
The power that gave his universe its birth.
This is our home, the gift of God's creation
Soon it will be each Child's inheritance
Yet with this knowledge we have found temptation
And now abuse his loves beneficence.*

*Forgive us Lord for we have killed your children,
Despoiled your planet, poisoned sky and sea,
And worst of all we know what we are doing
But shut our eyes when we don't want to see.
This is our home, the gift of God's creation,
And power grows fat upon the starving bones,
Cruel wars destroy the hope of peaceful nations
And hunger drives our neighbours from our home.*

*Help us to use the wisdom you have given
Teach us the way to recreate your land,
And give us grace to share with one another,
The richness that is held within our hands.
This is our home, the gift of God's creation,
This is the world God put within our care,
And by his grace we hold the earth's salvation
The gift of hope for people everywhere.*

Reading: John's Gospel 6:22-34

Thanksgiving Prayer

Leader: Dear God, we thank you for the Earth and for all your gifts of life.
In your goodness we ask you to let the soil always bring forth an abundance of life to nourish the whole community of the living and to renew your children in body and spirit.

All: *We thank you, Lord, for this earth which you have made full of riches.
We ask you to help us be good conservers of your gifts.
Show us how to use our science and technology in creative, not destructive ways.
Help us to realise and fulfil our relationships with the whole of your Creation, so that the earth will always bring forth life to nourish us all in body and in spirit.
Through Christ, who died for all creation, Amen.*

Intercessions

Leader: God have mercy

Response: *God, through your Grace, hear our prayers*

Symbolic Act: Sharing for the Future

Jewish blessing over bread

Set the bread of the presence on the table to be before us at all times (Exodus 25:30)

(You are invited to participate in this action and respond)

Leader: Fruit of the Earth

All: *Thanks be to God*

Dismissal: (Peggy de Cuehlo, Uruguay)

O God, you placed us in the world
to live in community. You taught
us to love, to share in life, to struggle for
bread and for justice,
your truth incarnate in our lives.

Leader: Go in peace and plant seeds of hope to feed the
world.

Thanks be to God.

Trumpet Finale: Jubilee Song (Bernadette Farrell)

We are young, we are old,
in your world our lives unfold.
All round us earth's abundance
Brings more than our hands can hold.
Set us free. Make us see
What our stewardship must be:
All the gifts of your creation
Shared out equally.

For the sake of the poor
Jesus came and gladly bore
Condemnation and derision
From those who enshrined "the law".
He proclaimed endlessly
Laws of love and jubilee,
Breaking chains of debt and empire,
Setting nations free.

All the land, soil and seed
Can provide for every need.
Yet God's children thirst and hunger.
Divided by human greed.
Let the earth, sea and sky
Now reflect and glorify
God whose tenderness and mercy
Lift the lowly high.

Jesus Christ yesterday
And tomorrow and today –
Thru' all times and thru' all ages,
Your word is our living way.
That the world be made new
Keep your gospel people true,
let us once again with courage
Rise and follow you!

Commissioning

Leader: Give us this day our daily bread

*Forgive us our shortcomings and send us out to nurture
abundant life as you would have it to be.
In the name of Christ.
Amen.*

Reflection - to be read silently (Sr. Terri Mackenzie SHCJ)

The bread we eat, sacramentally and each day, requires flour that
comes from wheat, that comes from seeds, that come from seeds,
that come from seeds – all the way back at least 105,000 years!
The grain required photosynthesis that started about 2,800,000
years ago and soil that developed about 500,000,000 years ago.
The chemicals date to the explosion of a supernova about 13.7
billion years ago, as does water – and as does each of us!

Closing Music (Weaver God Creator)

Service organised and led by members of
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