

Leader: Deliver us from blindness and hardened hearts, from excuses, and lack of understanding other's suffering and the causes for hatred that are all around us.

All: *The Kingdom, the power and the Glory are yours, Almighty Creator; give us the grace to reflect your Kingdom everyday of our lives in this world. Amen*

The Blessing.

May the Father, Son and Holy Spirit
guide our every coming and going
that we may act justly,
love kindly,
and walk humbly
as God's friend and companion
on this lovely, lively planet,
Amen`

Hymn: We shall go out with joy and be led forth in peace

*You shall go out with joy
And be let forth with peace,
And the mountains and the hills
Will break forth before you
There'll be shouts of joy
And all the trees of the fields
Will clap, will clap their hands*

*And the trees of the fields
will clap their hands
The trees of the fields will clap their hands
The trees of the fields will clap their hands
While you go out with joy*

*Devon Churches Green Action, The Old Deanery, The Cloisters,
Exeter, EX1 1HS (www.dcg.org.uk)*

Devon Churches Green Action



'Devon - Land of Milk and Honey'

**Justice, Peace and Creation Chapel
Exeter Cathedral**

Saturday 24th September 2011

12 noon



Devon – Land of Milk and Honey

(please join in words in italics)

Greeting:

Leader: May God be with us all

All: *Creator of Life*

Sentence of scripture:

“Sing to the Lord with a new song; sing to the Lord all the earth.
Sing to the Lord praise His name; proclaim his salvation day
after day.”

Opening Hymn:

*For the fruits of all creation,
thanks be to God.*

*gifts bestowed on every nation,
thanks be to God.*

*For the plowing, sowing, reaping,
silent growth while we are sleeping,
future needs in earth's safekeeping,
thanks be to God.*

*In the just reward of labor,
God's will is done.*

*In the help we give our neighbor,
God's will is done.*

*In our worldwide task of caring
for the hungry and despairing,
in the harvests we are sharing,
God's will is done.*

*For the harvests of the Spirit,
thanks be to God.*

*For the good we all inherit,
thanks be to God.*

*For the wonders that astound us,
for the truths that still confound us,
most of all that love has found us,
thanks be to God.*

The Lord's Prayer *(version by Monica Evans)*

Leader: Our Father in Heaven, Creator of the Universe and all
life on earth

All: *Grant that we recognise the gifts you have given us and keep
your holy name always in our hearts and in our communities.*

Leader: Let your Kingdom grow here on earth as we do your
will; as we love and respect your
creation, your truth and all your people.

All: *Let us act justly, love tenderly and walk humbly with you our
God.*

Leader: We ask for our daily bread; for all our needs.

All: *Move us to share with the millions who starve, and have less
that they need for a dignified human life.*

Leader: Forgive us for blindness, for wilful ignorance, for the
selfishness and greed that lead us
to exploit the Earth's resources for our luxury and
comfort.

All: *Forgive us for thus degrading agricultural land,
contaminating land and water supplies.*

Leader: Forgive us for our contribution towards global warming
and climate chaos, that are further endangering the lives
of the poorest people and places on earth.
Help us to understand and forgive people who feel
violence is the only effective method
of resolving problems of greed, abuse and injustice.

All: *Lead us Lord, to see through the temptations of the world to
"have it all", cost what it may, to those already in the greatest
need.*

*I, the Lord of snow and rain,
I have borne my people's pain.
I have wept for love of them.
They turn away.*

*I will break their hearts of stone,
Give them hearts for love alone.
I will speak my words to them.
Whom shall I send?*

*I, the Lord of wind and flame,
I will send the poor and lame.
I will set a feast for them.
My hand will save.*

*Finest bread I will provide,
'Til their hearts be satisfied.
I will give my life to them.
Whom shall I send?*

Symbolic Act of Sharing

Prayer:

Leader: As we share these gifts,
as we taste this honey,
as we pour out this milk,
we thank you, God, for our daily bread
for the food which delights and nourishes us
and for companionship that sustains us.
We thank you, too, for clean, cool water
to quench our thirst,
and for the Living Water
with which you surprise and enrich
and transform our lives.

All: *Amen.*

Leader: Giving God,
bless all who have gathered round this table.

All: *May we know the fullness of your presence
at every meal and in all our sharing.
Amen.*

Prayers of Penitence:

Leader: In Jeremiah 12:4 we read, "How long will the land lie parched and the grass in every field be withered? Because those who live in it are wicked, the animals and birds have perished. Moreover the people are saying, "He will not see what happens to us".

Devon is traditionally a land rich in dairy and honey produce, but milk suppliers are declining and the bees are under threat. We are reminded that it is sinful to destroy that which sustains life.

God's whole creation groans.

The land produces thorns and thistles and longs to be set free.

Our sin affects all around us.

We confess our sins in penitence and faith.

Creator God, you made this earth and all its creatures to sing your praises. We confess that our overuse of resources and our destruction of habitats is turning creation's joyful music into the sound of mourning and the echo of silence.

Lord have mercy

All: *Lord have mercy*

Leader: Sustainer God, you uphold and cherish your world, and you call us to bear your image in tending and conserving the garden of creation. We confess that we have neglected your call, and failed to reflect your image in our care for your world.

Christ have mercy.

All: *Christ have mercy*

Leader: Redeemer God, you sent your only Son to die and rise again, That all creation might be set free from its bondage to decay and all things might be made new in Christ. We confess that we have kept your good news to ourselves and failed to speak and live its truth for all your creatures

Lord have mercy.

All: *Lord have mercy*

Leader: Almighty God who renews the face of the earth, cleanse us from the pollution of our sins, create in us a new heart, and renew our joy in serving Him in His world.

All: Amen

Collect for Creation Time:

Leader: Lord of creation

All: *Your world reveals your glory,
Grant us eyes to see your glory in all
you have made,
From the beauty of a sunset to the pattern
of a snowflake.
Give us minds to grasp something of your purposes in creation
And the humility to take our place as co-workers
Serving you in your garden.
Give us hearts to love you in loving all your works,
And tenderness in nurturing life in all its fullness.
Through Jesus Christ,
Who is alive with you and the Holy Spirit,
One God now and for ever.
Amen.*

Reading: Deuteronomy: 26: 1-15

Short reflection

Intercessions:

All: *God of all,
Creator beyond time,
We think of the flow of seasons and generations that
is our home*

Leader: We remember those who have lived before us:
those whose explorations have left us gifts of knowledge
and expertise, those whose hard work has been the
foundation of our prosperity,
those whose sacrifices have become the stuff of legends,
those whose faithfulness has challenged our ambivalence.

We dream of those who will live long after
we have gone:
the great, great grandchildren who
will know us as ancient pictures,
the generations of every nation who will trace history back
to us, the people who will shape the world, in part,
upon the lessons we demonstrated the believers who will
know you a little, through our testimony.

Past and future meet in our presence.
So we pray for ourselves and those of our generation:
that we will hand on a world
worthy of humanity and of you eternal God,
that we will measure our treatment of creation
against the needs of those unborn,
that we will treasure our world and protect it from
ourselves, that we will be so inspired by your spirit
that our work will bear fruit.

All: *And to you, eternal and intimate God,
be all glory, praise and honour,
as it was in the beginning, is now,
and forever shall be, world with end. Amen*

(Neil Thorogood)

Hymn: I, the Lord of sea and sky

*I, the Lord of sea and sky,
I have heard my people cry.
All who dwell in dark and sin,
My hand will save.*

*I, who made the stars of night,
I will make their darkness bright.
Who will bear my light to them?
Whom shall I send?*

Here I am, Lord. Is it I, Lord?
I have heard you calling in the night.
I will go, Lord, if you lead me.
I will hold your people in my heart.