

## Order of Service for 7th November 2021

### ***Climate Sunday***

#### Welcome and What is COP26? (Introduction by Jan Clemons)

Welcome to our Climate Sunday service. Before we start, I'd just like to take a few minutes explaining why Hearsall Baptist (already an Eco-Church) is taking part. We are not alone - there are thousands of worshippers of all faiths taking part in Climate Sunday. Some of them have already had their Climate Sunday service but ours was arranged to correspond with the climate summit in Glasgow, called COP26, which stands for **the 26th "Conference of the Parties"** and represents a gathering of all the countries signed on to the U.N. Framework Convention on Climate Change and the Paris Climate Agreement.

Will it be a good COP, bad COP or Cop out? The important message is we must act now.

Most of us will agree with the Queen – COP26 will involve a lot of talking but we need to see that governments will be taking more action straight away. All the countries of the world need to commit to this with no exceptions.

We can phase out coal, stop deforestation, switch to electric vehicles, invest in renewables, provide the finance, so richer nations can help the developing world to do the same.

Using natural solutions, we can protect communities and natural habitats by restoring or rewilding ecosystems and building flood defences, as seen in Coventry by the creation of ponds and reed beds at Lake View Park. The River Sherbourne project hopes to build similar flood defences along the river.

At the very least what we need to achieve at COP26 is to **keep 1.5 degrees alive**.

Climate change is not in the future – it's here and happening now. Glaciers and sea ice are melting at such a rate that many major coastal cities run the risk of flooding as sea levels rise. So far this year we have witnessed wildfires blazing through redwood forests in California, a heatwave in Russia, and twenty-one intense tropical

storms affecting Louisiana, Mexico and Canada, just to mention three. Do you remember seeing the floodwaters causing waterfalls in the metro station in Zhegzho (*pronounced 'Jung – jo*)?

Make no mistake, this is just a sign of what is yet to come if we do nothing.

We know the science, we have the evidence, so we must pray for action, commitment and change. World leaders can play their part. So can countries and local communities. How can Hearsall Baptist church reduce its carbon footprint? How can we as individuals make a difference? This service will hopefully make you think about things you can do to help.

Finally, the vision of Climate Sunday is to leave a lasting legacy of churches tackling climate change, and equipped to campaign on climate issues, and COP26 is not the end of that vision. As an Eco-Church with renewed commitment, we can do this.

### Call to Worship

The ancient book of Genesis declares:

“God saw all that he had made, and it was very good.”

Today is Climate Sunday, and we gather:

to worship the God who made the earth to be very good indeed;

to thank him for its beauty and bounty;

to confess humanity’s habits of selfish destruction;

and to seek God’s wisdom and guidance

that we may yet learn to respect this jewel of a planet.

We begin with a beautiful old hymn, reminding us of God’s faithfulness as we experience it in the natural world.

### Hymn (BPW 553) **Great is Thy Faithfulness**

Great is thy faithfulness, O God my father,

You have fulfilled all your promise to me;

You never fail and your love is unchanging,

All you have been you for ever will be.

*Chorus*

*Great is thy faithfulness!*

*Great is thy faithfulness!*

*Morning by morning new mercies I see;*

*All I have needed your hand hath provided –*

*Great is thy faithfulness, Father, to me.*

Summer and winter, and springtime and harvest,

Sun, moon and stars in their courses above

Join with all nature in eloquent witness

To your great faithfulness, mercy and love.

*Chorus*

Pardon for sin, and a peace everlasting,

Your living presence to cheer and to guide;

Strength for today, and bright hope for tomorrow -

These are the blessings your love will provide.

*Chorus*

You'll find a link to an Einaudi video, *Elegy for the Arctic*, in our service script, and you might like to watch that now.

Elegy for the Arctic Einaudi Video

[Ludovico Einaudi - "Elegy for the Arctic" - Official Live \(Greenpeace\)](#)

We share now in a prayer of lament and a confession...

Lament (John Polhill)

Bless our Lament

Creator God,

Bless the tear we shed for the resources we have squandered.

Bless the sigh we breathe out for the atmosphere.

Bless the head we hang for the creatures lost and exploited.

Bless the hands we wring for the things we have broken and wasted.

Bless us as we lament.

Cradle us as we regret.

Restore us as we start afresh.

Amen

### Confession (Martyn Goss)

Climate Change is prompted by our sinfulness:

- our greed, gluttony and lust for more
- our pride and arrogance
- our anger, envy and vanity
- our dishonesty and maliciousness
- our indifference and laziness

Creator God, forgive.

Climate Change is fed by our failure to accept limits:

- of the Earth's capacity
- to consumerism and excessive materialism
- to an economy that demands insatiability
- to our crude desires
- to our human aspirations

Saviour God – forgive.

Climate Change is enhanced by our falling short of our deeper potential:

- to respect all life
- to live compassionately
- to think beyond the short-term
- to seek peace through justice
- to express solidarity with the vulnerable

Inspiring God – forgive.

Climate Change is addressed when we actively work to change our economic lifestyles:

- campaigning for fairness and equality
- putting community before self
- sharing resources and cooperating together

- acting to regenerate the Earth
- recognising the deep holiness of life itself

Creator, Redeemer, Sustainer God:

In the face of Climate Change

forgive us our wrongdoings;

challenge our apathy;

strengthen our resolve;

inspire us with hope;

and enthuse us with love

to make a world of difference now and forever.

Amen.

Let's sing now about how hard it is to find wisdom; how challenging it can be to reach for the common good; and how the wisdom that we need lies in God: *Things no eye has ever seen.*

### **Song Things That No Eye Has Ever Seen**

(Prue/Sutcliffe -based on Job 28 and 1 Corinthians 2: 6 -10)

Where eagles never spread their wings;

and lions never dare to roar;

where miners seek for jewels hid

within the darkness of the earth;

where unseen rivers start their course;

where fire and force have done their work;

where human feet could never walk;

the hidden treasures lurk.

#### *Chorus*

*Things that no eye has ever seen;*

*things that no ear has ever heard;*

*things that no mind has ever known;*

*God has kept for those who love.*

Lapis lazuli, topaz, coral,  
jasper, rubies, silver, gold  
delight our eyes as precious things,  
mined and cut and set and sold.  
Unfathomed seas their secrets keep  
- what creatures in deep trenches live?  
and death might hint at something more  
that life, at last, can give.

*Chorus*

*Things that no eye has ever seen;  
things that no ear has ever heard;  
things that no mind has ever known;  
God has kept for those who love.*

Before the dawn of time itself  
a mystery had been stored for us,  
then shown in Christ's triumphant death:  
the might of grace, the power of love.  
This is the wisdom we now choose:  
a gentle grace to guide our ways;  
a simple choice of life for all  
inspired by holy fear.

*Chorus*

As islands flood and forests burn,  
as plastic rubbish swirls in seas,  
as glaciers melt and storms return,  
as habitats are placed at risk  
for creatures great and small alike:  
the nations need a common goal  
"A deep respect for all of life  
that God has placed upon the earth."

*Chorus x 2*

*Things that no eye has ever seen;  
things that no ear has ever heard;  
things that no mind has ever known;  
God has kept for those who love.*

On our service sheet now there's a link to a video which gives an amplified version of the Lord's prayer, and you might like to watch that now.

[FAITH IN A CHANGING CLIMATE - The Lord's Prayer speaking to Climate Justice](#)

### The Lord's Prayer

Our Father in heaven,  
hallowed be your name,  
your kingdom come,  
your will be done,  
on earth as in heaven.  
Give us today our daily bread.  
Forgive us our sins  
as we forgive those who sin against us.  
Lead us not into temptation  
but deliver us from evil.  
For the kingdom, the power,  
and the glory are yours  
now and for ever.  
Amen.

Now Louise Prue leads us in a prayer prepared by Pope Francis.

### A Prayer from Pope Francis

#### **Our Earth**

All-powerful God, you are present in the whole universe and in the smallest of your creatures.  
You embrace with your tenderness all that exists.

Pour out upon us the power of your love,  
that we may protect life and beauty.

Fill us with peace, that we may live  
as brothers and sisters, harming no one.

O God of the poor,  
help us to rescue the abandoned and forgotten of this earth, so precious in  
your eyes.

Bring healing to our lives,  
that we may protect the world and not prey on it,  
that we may sow beauty, not pollution and destruction. Touch the hearts  
of those who look only for gain  
at the expense of the poor and the earth.

Teach us to discover the worth of each thing,  
to be filled with awe and contemplation,  
to recognise that we are profoundly united  
with every creature,  
as we journey towards your infinite light.

We thank you for being with us each day.

Encourage us, we pray, in our struggle  
for justice, love and peace.

We hear our Bible readings now from the Psalms and from Romans.

### Bible Readings

#### **Psalm 24**

*Of David. A psalm.*

<sup>1</sup> The earth is the LORD's, and everything in it,  
the world, and all who live in it;

<sup>2</sup> for he founded it on the seas  
and established it on the waters.

<sup>3</sup> Who may ascend the mountain of the LORD?  
Who may stand in his holy place?

<sup>4</sup> The one who has clean hands and a pure heart,

who does not trust in an idol  
or swear by a false god.

<sup>5</sup> They will receive blessing from the LORD  
and vindication from God their Saviour.

<sup>6</sup> Such is the generation of those who seek him,  
who seek your face, God of Jacob.

<sup>7</sup> Lift up your heads, you gates;  
be lifted up, you ancient doors,  
that the King of glory may come in.

<sup>8</sup> Who is this King of glory?  
The LORD strong and mighty,  
the LORD mighty in battle.

<sup>9</sup> Lift up your heads, you gates;  
lift them up, you ancient doors,  
that the King of glory may come in.

<sup>10</sup> Who is he, this King of glory?  
The LORD Almighty –  
he is the King of glory.

### **Romans 8:18-27**

#### *Present suffering and future glory*

<sup>18</sup> I consider that our present sufferings are not worth comparing with the glory that will be revealed in us. <sup>19</sup> For the creation waits in eager expectation for the children of God to be revealed. <sup>20</sup> For the creation was subjected to frustration, not by its own choice, but by the will of the one who subjected it, in hope <sup>21</sup> that<sup>[a]</sup> the creation itself will be liberated from its bondage to decay and brought into the freedom and glory of the children of God.

<sup>22</sup> We know that the whole creation has been groaning as in the pains of childbirth right up to the present time. <sup>23</sup> Not only so, but we ourselves, who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly as we wait eagerly for our adoption to sonship, the redemption of our bodies. <sup>24</sup> For in this hope we were saved. But hope that is seen is no hope at all. Who hopes for what they already have? <sup>25</sup> But if we hope for what we do not yet have, we wait for it patiently.

<sup>26</sup> In the same way, the Spirit helps us in our weakness. We do not know what we ought to pray for, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us through wordless groans. <sup>27</sup> And he who searches our hearts knows the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for God's people in accordance with the will of God.

The earth itself longs for release according to the Apostle Paul. Our service sheet now has a link to an inspiring video from Sir David Attenborough, addressing the question, *How to save our planet*.

### Video

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0Puv0Pss33M>

David Attenborough

Well, I hope you do get the chance to click on that video; it's well worth a watch. It gives an impressive overview of how we might learn to live in harmony with nature and so create a sustainable future. But now we look at some examples of what that might mean practically in everyday life here in Coventry.

### Practical Responses Sarah Lewis

I am not an eco-goddess but do my best. We ALL need to make it a personal responsibility to reduce our carbon footprint – so if you like the sound of just one thing I'm doing, adopt it NOW – the planet can't wait for a New Year's resolution; I regard myself as a work in progress.

I won't focus on the things we all do already; we all recycle – yes? We have all reduced our car use (if physically able) and walk, cycle or use public transport more – yes?

**Reduce your energy consumption:** Now I live in a typical Earlsdon, mid-terrace, 2 up 2 down, so my chance of installing a wind-farm in my back garden is zero! However, I maximise and minimise effects of the weather. My house has a south-facing back and north-facing front. I can line-dry washing for at least 9 months of the year on a sunny day and have a clothes horse in the warmest room of the house – upstairs back. I also hang washing on upstairs doorframes – I no longer use a tumble-drier.

By contrast the front rooms can be cold in winter and I used to have the heating on whenever I wished. Not anymore! DIY snakes on doors and window sills, spare carpet strips and flattened delivery boxes against walls. I also put paper on glass sections of front and back doors - wrapping paper is ideal and makes a considerable difference and looks great. 😊

**Repurpose before recycle** - Whenever possible, I prefer to re-use or re-purpose something, than buy more stuff. Be creative!

From the obvious - Plant Pots – old margarine tubs with holes put in them,  
Floor cloths – cut up old T-shirts.

To the more creative - Screen riser – upturned empty cat-food boxes  
Or drawer insert from an empty iPad box – as has sections for those small pieces of jewellery, clips, batteries etc. Get thinking!

**Think before you eat** – I am a vegetarian-almost-vegan. I didn't go veggie overnight; excuse the pun but my journey was in bite-size chunks! For ethical reasons I stopped eating meat in January 1991 but still ate fish until 2000. A bit later I stopped buying eggs, then cut back on all dairy products, which is where I am now. So go on – try 2 meat free days a week, then 4 ... Have at least one veggie day per week, then 2 etc. Veggie food is no longer 'special' but on main shelves in shops and menus in cafés and restaurants. I just wish I could find a non-animal milk I like to replace my 1 litre per week! My next duty is to reduce the distance my food has travelled – in particular to cut out air travel by any of my seven-a-day greengrocery.

**So make that commitment NOW** – God's creation, our wonderful planet needs you to.

Unfortunately I worship the god of plastic and my bathroom is a shrine to him.  
After the service, I need to have a serious chat with our next speaker...

Rachel Ward, who runs the COGs eco stall at Coventry Market.

### My Journey; My COGs

I grew up in inner-city London; there was a park nearby but mostly there were shops and cars and takeaways, and then came the superstores and megastores, and

gradually all the space was taken over by buildings which dwarfed those trees that survived the 'progress'.

I love the outdoors. I first discovered it studying geography at school. We visited places on field trips. We sat overlooking the Rhondda Valley and I could not believe what I saw. We walked back from the pub in the dark and we saw a sky full of stars.

I love the outdoors. I also love eating. But, there's salmonella in eggs, Edwina said. Cow's milk... not so healthy, said another. Chickens with beaks chopped off to stop the pecking of others in a space so tight they can barely move. I am thinking, I really like salad! And veg!

I love the outdoors and I love eating. I learned about climate change whilst studying at Warwick Uni and thought that's not a great thing; we should do something to stop that happening. I cycle and eat veggies. I have taken very few flights in my life. I love camping in the UK. I pick stuff out with no wrappings on because I can see the land filled with our detritus which will be there thousands and thousands of years after we've gone. Future archaeologists will not be impressed.

I love the outdoors. I love eating, and now I also love my children. They're turning into adults and I am worried that despite my best efforts on a personal level, I've not done enough; the world is not listening. Whether I have grandchildren in the future is a moot point but supposing I do, what kind of a world are we leaving for them? Will they be able to safely drink the water or breathe the air? The food they have access to, will it nourish them or will it be a poison?

So I love a lot of things and COGs is a response to that; the outdoors, the food on our plates, the children we are leaving the future to.

COGs tries to offer an alternative to stuff which is thrust at us from all directions. Reuse your bottles. Refill your tins and boxes. Choose fair trade, organic, locally made, eco-friendly. Use an eco-friendly cleaner that leaves no trace in the oceans and rivers. Choose a gentle shampoo or soap or shower gel, made from natural ingredients. Choose organic and wholefoods which will nourish your body and support your mental well-being.

COGs tries to be that place where food is whole, where goods we use regularly are made from a personal passion of the maker, where we can be sure we are not hurting ourselves, our neighbours or our beautiful home, planet Earth. Where are we going to live, once we have finished trashing this place?

### Offering

We include today an offering to the Warwickshire Wildlife Trust Nature Recovery Fund for the creation of new nature reserves. They will be buying land of low value and rewilding it by restoring lost habitats to reconnect people with nature in Warwickshire and Coventry.

Lord, we offer you our gifts of money, and we pray that they may help to create an inclusive world in which people and nature live in harmony. Amen.

That vision of harmony has long been a part of the Christian tradition, and we celebrate that now as we sing, *All things bright and beautiful*.

### Hymn (BPW 116) **All Things Bright and Beautiful**

*Refrain:*

*All things bright and beautiful,*

*All creatures great and small,*

*And All things wise and wonderful:*

*The Lord God made them all.*

Each little flower that opens,

Each little bird that sings,

He made their glowing colours,

He made their tiny wings.

*Refrain*

The purple-headed mountains,

The river running by,

The sunset and the morning

That brightens up the sky.

*Refrain*

*All things bright and beautiful,  
All creatures great and small,  
And All things wise and wonderful:  
The Lord God made them all.*

The cold wind in the winter,  
The pleasant summer sun,  
The ripe fruits in the garden,  
He made them every one.

*Refrain*

He gave us eyes to see them,  
And lips that we might tell  
How great is God Almighty,  
Who has made all things well.

*Refrain*

Our intercessions today are led by Peter Fearn and include another prayer from Pope Francis.

Prayers of Intercessions

Our prayers of intercession today reflect Cop 26 and include a powerful prayer written by Pope Francis, especially for the conference, as well as prayers from BMS World Mission.

Let us pray together powerfully in union with God and creation.

Father, we praise you with all your creatures.

They came forth from your all-powerful hand; they are yours, filled with your presence and your tender love. Praise be to you!

Jesus, Son of God,

through you all things were made.

You were formed in the womb of Mary our Mother, you became part of this

earth, and you gazed upon this world with human eyes. Today you are alive in every creature in your risen glory.

Praise be to you!

Holy Spirit, by your light

you guide this world towards the Father's love and accompany creation as it groans in travail. You also dwell in our hearts

and you inspire us to do what is good. Praise be to you!

Lord, wondrous community of infinite love, teach us to contemplate you in the beauty of the universe, for all things speak of you.

Awaken our praise and thankfulness for every being that you have made. Give us the grace to feel profoundly joined to everything that is.

God of love, show us our place in this world as channels of your love for all the creatures of this earth, for not one of them is forgotten in your sight. Enlighten those who possess power and money that they may avoid the sin of indifference, that they may love the common good, advance the weak, and care for this world in which we live.

The poor and the earth are crying out.

O Lord, seize us with your power and light, help us to protect all life, to prepare for a better future, for the coming of your Kingdom of justice, peace, love and beauty.

Praise be to you!

Amen.

*God of Heaven and Earth*

*May your Spirit convict the hearts and minds of the world's leaders attending COP26, make them conscious of their great responsibility to the generations of the present and the future and, ultimately, to you. Guide them into greater integrity and courage in their decision-making.*

*Unite your Church, Lord Jesus, that we would be agents of justice and hope for those who are already suffering the impacts of a changing climate, even as we*

*repent of our part in its causes. Help us each to reflect honestly and hopefully on our own actions and teach us what needs to change.*

*We give thanks to you, our creator, for every good thing you have given us above and below heaven! We give thanks to you for our Saviour, Jesus Christ, in whom we have our hope. We are grateful for this conference and to hear voices from around the world of those that are already being impacted by a changing climate.*

*We pray that any commitments made by our politicians and industry leaders will be upheld with transparency and integrity. May we as citizens and consumers hold our leaders to account, even whilst we commit ourselves and our churches to uphold our responsibility as stewards of God's good creation. For the earth is yours, Lord, and all of us in it!*

*We praise you, God of creation, in whom we have our hope.*

*In your holy name, Amen.*

Children have a lot to say to our world's leaders as we think about climate change. The next video link is to a song written by Frankie Morland, an 8-year-old boy.

[Song 8-year-old boy's self-written song about climate change will break your heart](#)

The song includes these words:

I hope we will be fine,  
I hate to see the world in danger,  
I want to enjoy your beauty  
Before you're gone.

Let's all enjoy the world today,  
Climb the trees and breathe the air.  
Let's all enjoy the world,  
Because tomorrow could be a very different day.

I'm delighted to introduce Sandra Noel, who has kindly agreed to bring our closing reflection.

## A Closing Reflection on Climate Change

I was born in The Rhymney Valley in South Wales, a coal mining town. My father started work down the pit when he was 10 years old, shovelling coal into barrows with a large adult shovel. When I was a child all the men in the town were miners. I can see them now going home at the end of the day covered in coal dust from head to toe.

The mountains around the town were actually large grey slag heaps. Now they are covered in conifer trees planted since the Aberfan disaster when a whole school was buried when a slag heap slid down. Thankfully now all the pits are closed and I can truthfully say that the climate of my home town has changed considerably for the better.

We heard Psalm 24 today, a psalm which I learnt by heart at school. “The earth is the Lord’s and the fullness there of, the world and they that dwell there in” ---a place of beauty and prosperity for all God’s children to enjoy living in. This is how it was meant to be. But our industrial development has altered this whole concept—polluting the air, damaging the environment, resulting in many parts of God’s earth being unfit for his children to live in.

Greta Thunburg, a Swedish twelve year old, says “our planet is screaming for help”. We need bold visionary leaders to DO what is needed. The words of the leaders in Glasgow are not enough. We need ACTION.

\$100 million were promised to vulnerable countries some years ago, but it never materialized. They need it now and even more.

Young folk like Greta are ready for action, and I must admit those of us who are old are tempted to leave it to them and sit snoozing at home.

**BUT WE ARE ALL RESPONSIBLE; WE ALL NEED TO TAKE ACTION.**

- 1) Leave your cars at home sometimes and travel by public transport
- 2) Change to electric cars when they are available

When Derek and I were travelling by taxi across the city this week we crawled all the way, as the road was totally blocked with cars.

- 3) Contact your MP when you see a pollution problem
- 4) Change our heating supply

5) Plant more trees

### THE EARTH IS SOUNDING AN ALARM

As Christians – for love of humanity and for love of God’s beautiful earth  
WE NEED TO ACT NOW; WE CAN DO THIS TOGETHER.

We need hope and energy to change the world! Let’s go out with joy in our hearts...  
We sing together, *You shall go out with joy.*

#### Song (WT 495) **You Shall Go Out with Joy**

Verse

You shall go out with joy  
And be led forth with peace;  
The mountains and the hills  
Will break forth before you;  
There'll be shouts of joy  
And all the trees of the field  
Will clap, will clap, their hands!

*Chorus*

*And all the trees of the field will clap their hands;  
The trees of the field will clap their hands;  
The trees of the field will clap their hands;  
While you go out with joy!*

Repeat Verse

*Chorus x 3*

#### The Grace

May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ;  
And the love of God;  
And the fellowship of the Holy Spirit  
Be with us all, evermore.  
Amen

## Sung Blessing

May the peace of the Lord Christ go with you

Wherever he may send you;

May he guide you through the wilderness;

Protect you through the storm;

May he bring you home rejoicing

At the wonders he has shown you;

May he bring you home rejoicing

Once again into our doors.