

Order of Service – slide outline

- 1. The Face of God**
- 2. Holding slide - opening**
- 3. Welcome (no text on slide)**
- 4. Acknowledgement of Country (no text on slide)**
- 5. A Joint Message for the Protection of Creation – intro (no text on slide)**
- 6. Psalm 19[a] 1-4, 6 NIV**
- 7. A Joint Message for the Protection of Creation - The Importance of Sustainability (no text on slide)**
- 8. Prayer, response**
- 9. Silence**
- 10. Vesper Prayer - Christ our Saviour, Lover of humankind**
- 11. Psalm 139**
- 12. A Joint Message for the Protection of Creation – Impact ...poverty**
- 13. Prayer, response**
- 14. Silence**
- 15. Vesper Prayer- fence round...**
- 16. A Joint Message for the Protection of Creation - Imperative of co-op.**
- 17. Reflection – Choose life**
- 18. Silence**
- 19. Prayer, response**
- 20. Vesper Prayer - Lord, who wraps creation in clouds,**
- 21. Song (Taizé)**

Order of Service – content

1. The Face of God

(6 min intro or 2 min trailer or FB promo)

2. Holding slide - opening

3. Welcome

Thank you for joining with us today. For this Ecumenical Prayer Service, we will be linking prayers from the Australian Catholic Bishops Conference's Office for Justice, Ecology and Peace¹; Prayers for the Environment prayed at Vespers on 1 September² from the Greek Orthodox Church of Australia; together with reflections from the text of the 2021 Joint Message³.

(As online, invite people to stay on mute but to respond where they are).

4. Acknowledgement of Country (no text on slide)

As people are attending our prayer service today from locations across Australia, we acknowledge the Traditional Owners across Australia and we pay our respects to these First Nation custodians of land, waters and culture, and their Elders past, present and emerging.

5. A Joint Message for the Protection of Creation

(from [A Joint Message on the Protection of Creation](#) from Pope Francis, Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew and Archbishop of Canterbury on 1 September 2021)

Introduction

"September is celebrated by many Christians as the Season of Creation, an opportunity to pray and care for God's creation. As world leaders prepare to meet in November at Glasgow to deliberate on the future of our planet, we pray for them and consider what the choices we must all make.

Accordingly, as leaders of our Churches, we call on everyone, whatever their belief or worldview, to endeavour to listen to the cry of the earth and of people who are poor, examining their behaviour and pledging meaningful sacrifices for the sake of the earth which God has given us."

¹ Australian Catholic Bishops Conference Social Justice statement for 2021/22 – *Cry of the Earth, Cry of the Poor*

² *Towards An Ecology of Transfiguration, Orthodox Perspectives on Environment, Nature and Creation*, ed. J. Chryssavgis and Bruce Foltz (New York: Fordham University Press, 2013), 379-385

³ [Joint Statement.pdf \(oikoumene.org\)](#)

6. Psalm 19[a] 1-4, 6 NIV

- ¹ The heavens declare the glory of God;
the skies proclaim the work of his hands.
² Day after day they pour forth speech;
night after night they reveal knowledge.
³ They have no speech, they use no words;
no sound is heard from them.
⁴ Yet their voice^[b] goes out into all the earth,
their words to the ends of the world.
In the heavens God has pitched a tent for the sun.
⁶ It rises at one end of the heavens
and makes its circuit to the other;
nothing is deprived of its warmth.

7. A Joint Message for the Protection of Creation

The Importance of Sustainability

“In our common Christian tradition, the Scriptures and the Saints provide illuminating perspectives for comprehending both the realities of the present and the promise of something larger than what we see in the moment. The concept of stewardship - of individual and collective responsibility for our God-given endowment presents a vital starting point for social, economic, and environmental sustainability....

But we have taken the opposite direction. We have maximised our own interest at the expense of future generations. By concentrating on our wealth, we find that long-term assets, including the bounty of nature, are depleted for short-term advantage.”

8. Prayer, response

Send your Spirit upon us Lord
to renew our sight,
to restore our hearing,
and to reclaim
your reign of justice
for all people
and peace for creation.

All:

***Lord, send out your Spirit
and renew the face of the earth.***

9. Silence

10. Vesper Prayer

Christ our Saviour, Lover of humankind, who brought all things into existence from nothing, and with ineffable wisdom arranged for each on to accomplish unerringly the goal which you laid down in the beginning, as you are powerful, bless the whole creation which you fashioned.

11. Psalm 139

1 O Lord, you have searched me and known me.
2 You know when I sit down and when I rise up;
you discern my thoughts from far away.
3 You search out my path and my lying down,
and are acquainted with all my ways.
7 Where can I go from your spirit?
Or where can I flee from your presence?
8 If I ascend to heaven, you are there;
if I make my bed in Sheol, you are there.
9 If I take the wings of the morning
and settle at the farthest limits of the sea,
10 even there your hand shall lead me,
and your right hand shall hold me fast.

12. A Joint Message for the Protection of Creation – Poverty

“The current climate crisis speaks volumes about who we are and how we view and treat God's creation.

We stand before a harsh justice: biodiversity loss, environmental degradation and climate change are the inevitable consequences of our actions, since we have greedily consumed more of the earth's resources than the planet can endure.

But we also face a profound injustice: the people bearing the most catastrophic consequences of these abuses are the poorest on the planet and have been the least responsible for causing them.

We serve a God of justice, who delights in creation and creates every person in God's image, but also hears the cry of people who are poor. Accordingly, there is an innate call within us to respond with anguish when we see such devastating injustice.”

13. Prayer, response

Send your Spirit upon us Lord
to renew our sight,
to restore our hearing,
and to reclaim
your reign of justice
for all people
and peace for creation.

All:

***Lord, send out your Spirit
and renew the face of the earth.***

14. Silence

15. Vesper Prayer

Fence round the whole creation, Christ our Saviour, with the mighty strength of your love for humankind, and deliver the earth we inhabit from the corruption that threatens it; for we, your servants, have set our hopes on you.

16. A Joint Message for the Protection of Creation – cooperation

“If we think of humanity as a family and work together towards a future based on the common good, we could find ourselves living in a very different world. Together we can share a vision for life where everyone flourishes. Together we can choose to act with love, justice and mercy. Together we can walk towards a fairer and fulfilling society with those who are most vulnerable at the centre.

....All of us – whoever and whatever we are – can play a part in changing our collective response to the unprecedented threat of climate change and environmental degradation.

Caring for God’s creation is a spiritual commission requiring a response of commitment. This is a critical moment. Our Children’s future and the future of our common home depend on it.”

17. Reflection + Philip – Choose life

18. Silence

19. Prayer response

Send your Spirit upon us Lord
to renew our sight,
to restore our hearing,
and to reclaim
your reign of justice
for all people
and peace for creation.

All:

***Lord, send out your Spirit
and renew the face of the earth.***

20. Vesper Prayer

Lord, who wraps creation in clouds, as godly David sang, watch over the environment of the earth, which you created from the beginning for the preservation of mortals, and give us the breath of the winds and the flow of waters.

21. Song-Music: Let All Who Are Thirsty, Come (Taizé)

Face of God Film

(2 min FB promotional song)

Face of God Film links

- Film – intro only <http://faceofgodfilm.com/> - 6.00 minutes
- Facebook – song
https://m.facebook.com/story.php?story_fbid=612106665867364&id=2059307441027656&_rdr
- Facebook – trailer <https://www.facebook.com/Byzanfest/videos/471333030459683/>

Acknowledgements and Copyright

Australian Catholic Bishops Conference Social Justice statement for 2021/22 – *Cry of the Earth, Cry of the Poor*

Towards An Ecology of Transfiguration, Orthodox Perspectives on Environment, Nature and Creation, ed. J. Chryssavgis and Bruce Foltz (New York: Fordham University Press, 2013), 379-385

[Joint Statement.pdf \(oikoumene.org\)](#)

Prayers ©ACBC Office for Justice, Ecology and Peace, 2021.

Images from Canva.

PowerPoint Presentation by Noelene Osora, National Council of Churches in Australia

Let All Who Are Thirsty, Come

© 2011 Les Presses de Taizé. Words and Music: Taizé Community, France.

All rights reserved. Used with permission.

Let all who are thirsty, come.

Let who wish receive the water of life, freely.

Amen, come Lord Jesus!