



Creative Spirit: Sunday 9 Sept, 4pm

Join us at the start of the season of Creationtide.

We will listen to the voice of God through nature and the earth, our common home.

A participatory service including a guided auditory experience of the sounds of nature, and some time in our garden, offered by the Creative Spirit team and the Eco Church Group.

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We would like to use this time to reflect on the wonder of God's creation, and the place of humanity within it.

To do this we have created three soundscapes inspired by a passage from Job. Each soundscape is split into two parts; the first being sounds from 'pure' nature, the second having human influence, there's a short silence in the middle of each soundscape to mark the change.

While you listen, consider our relationship with nature. What can we learn? How can we grow together in harmony?

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The structure of the service will be four sessions. Three readings, each accompanied by a two-part soundscape.

After which, weather permitting we will go into the garden, for a fourth reading, time to listen to the city live, with a closing discussion and prayer.

Job 12:7-10

But ask the animals, and they will teach you,
or the birds in the sky, and they will tell you;
or speak to the earth, and it will teach you,
or let the fish in the sea inform you.

Which of all these does not know
that the hand of the Lord has done this?
In his hand is the life of every creature
and the breath of all humankind.

Session 1: ...speak to the earth, and it will teach you...

- Chief Dan George

The beauty of the trees,
the softness of the air,
the fragrance of the grass,
speaks to me.

The summit of the mountain,

the thunder of the sky,
the rhythm of the sea,
speaks to me.

The faintness of the stars,
the freshness of the morning,
the dew drop on the flower,
speaks to me.

The strength of fire,
the taste of salmon,
the trail of the sun,
And the life that never goes away,
They speak to me.
And my heart soars

- *Silence for Soundscape*

Session 2: ...let the fish in the sea inform you...

- Rachel Carson

To stand at the edge of the sea,
to sense the ebb and flow of the tides,
to feel the breath of a mist moving over a great salt marsh, to watch the flight of shore birds that
have swept up and down the surf lines of the continents for untold thousands of years,
to see the running of the old eels and the young shad to the sea,
is to have knowledge of things that are as nearly eternal as any earthly life can be

- *Silence for Soundscape*

Session 3: ...ask the birds in the sky, and they will tell you...

- Hermann Hesse

Sometimes, when a bird cries out,
Or the wind sweeps through a tree,
Or a dog howls in a far-off farm,
I hold still and listen a long time.

My world turns and goes back to the place
Where, a thousand forgotten years ago,
The bird and the blowing wind
Were like me, and were my brothers

My soul turns into a tree,
And an animal, and a cloud bank.
Then changed and odd it comes home
And asks me questions. What should I reply?

- *Silence for Soundscape*

Session 4: In his hand is the life of every creature and the breath of all humankind.

- Wisdom 7.19-22

It is he who gave me true knowledge of the forces of nature: what the world is made of; how the elements behave; how the calendar is determined by the movements of the sun, the changing seasons,

The cycles of the year and the constellation of the stars, the nature of animals and the the tempers of wild animals, the powers of winds and the thoughts of human beings, the varieties of plants and the virtues of roots: learned what is secret and what is manifest, for wisdom, the fashioner of all things, taught me'

- *Silence for Listening*

Time for discussion

Living God, you call us to be good stewards of this earthly home,
strengthen us to care for your creation;

forgive us when, through our greed and indifference we abuse its beauty and damage its potential.
Empower us, through your Spirit to so nurture and love the world.

Amen