St. John the Baptist, Old Malden



**Liturgy for**

**Creationtide**

*The Eucharist*

**The Gathering**

We gather in the name of the Triune God,

Creator, Redeemer, and Sustainer of all the Earth

and all its creatures!  Praise be to the Holy Trinity!

God is sound and life, Creator of the Universe,

Source of all life, whom the angels sing;

wondrous Light of all mysteries

known or unknown to humankind, and life that lives in all.

The Lord be with you **and also with you.**

**Prayer of Preparation**

**Almighty God,  
to whom all hearts are open,  
all desires known,  
and from whom no secrets are hidden:  
cleanse the thoughts of our hearts  
by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit,  
that we may perfectly love you,  
and worthily magnify your holy name;  
through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

**Invitation to Confession**

God’s whole creation groans,

oppressed and abused at the hands of humankind.   
The land produces thorns and thistles   
and longs to be set free.   
Our sin affects all around us and disfigures all things.   
Let us therefore confess our sins in penitence and faith.

**The Confession**

You delight in creation, its colour and diversity;  
yet we have misused the earth  
and plundered its resources for our own selfish ends.  
Lord, have mercy. **Lord, have mercy.**

You have brought order out of chaos,  
light in darkness, good out of evil,  
but we have preferred darkness  
in words and deeds which dishonour God’s holy name.  
Christ, have mercy. **Christ, have mercy.**

You have showered us with blessings,  
but we have been grudging towards others  
and lacking in generosity in word and deed.  
Lord, have mercy. **Lord, have mercy.**

**The Absolution**

May almighty God,

who sent his Son into the world to save sinners,

bring us his pardon and peace, now and for ever. **Amen.**

**The Gloria**

**Glory to God in the highest,  
and peace to his people on earth.  
Lord God, heavenly King,  
almighty God and Father,  
we worship you, we give you thanks,  
we praise you for your glory.  
  
Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father,  
Lord God, Lamb of God,  
you take away the sin of the world:  
have mercy on us;  
you are seated at the right hand of the Father:  
receive our prayer.  
  
For you alone are the Holy One,  
you alone are the Lord,  
you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ,  
with the Holy Spirit,  
in the glory of God the Father. Amen.**

**Collect**

**Old Testament Reading**

For the word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

**New Testament Reading**

For the word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

**The Gospel**

**Gospel Acclamation**

Alleluia, alleluia. God has spoken to us through his Son, through whom he created all things. **Alleluia.**

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to N.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

*The Gospel Reading concludes with:*

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

**Sermon**

**Affirmation of Faith** *from the Iona Community*

**We believe in God above us,**

**maker and sustainer of all life,**

**of sun and moon, of water and earth,**

**of humankind in all our diversity.**

**We believe in God beside us,**

**Jesus Christ, the word made flesh,**

**born of a woman, servant of the poor,**

**tortured and nailed to a tree.**

**A man of sorrows, he died forsaken.**

**He descended into the earth to the place of death.**

**On the third day he rose from the tomb.**

**He ascended into heaven, to be everywhere present,**

**and His kingdom will come on earth.**

**We believe in God within us,**

**the Holy Spirit,**

**life-giving breath of the Church,**

**who renews the face of the earth,**

**Spirit of healing and forgiveness,**

**source of resurrection and of eternal life. Amen.**

**The Intercessions**

**The Peace**

You shall go out in joy, and be led back in peace;

the mountains and the hills before you shall burst into song,

and all the trees of the field shall clap their hands.

The peace of the Lord be always with you

**and also with you.**

**Offertory Prayer**

Blessed be God,  
by whose grace creation is renewed,  
by whose love heaven is opened,  
by whose mercy we offer our sacrifice of praise.

**Blessed be God for ever**

**The Eucharistic Prayer** *(Anglican Church of Southern Africa)*

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right to give thanks and praise.**

Praise and thanks are yours, our Creating God.

From the dust of the earth you shaped human beings

in your own image, and you filled the earth and seas

and skies with a myriad of wonders.

Yet we consistently turn your generosity into our scarcity,

your elegance into our meanness,

and your simplicity into our corruption.

Though we poison and destroy your good Creation,

you continue to offer us your abundance.

In your mercy, you have redeemed us through your Son,

Jesus Christ, transforming death into life.

Through the Spirit you continue to call us

into covenant with you—for the restoration of Creation

and the reconciliation of all people.

And so we give you thanks, rejoicing with all of Creation,

as we join the saints and angels in their unending hymn of praise:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord,**

**God of power and might,  
heaven and earth are full of your glory.  
Hosanna in the highest.  
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.  
Hosanna in the highest.**

God of all creation, send your Spirit

upon the goodness of the earth,

and upon these gifts of bread and wine,

that in them we may recognize

and receive the fullness of the Risen Christ:

bread broken and wine poured,

body given, and blood shed.

On the night he sat at table with his disciples

and with them recalled the wonder of your creation

and the wonder of your covenant with your chosen people,

he took bread, gave you thanks, blessed it and broke it, saying:

Take this all of you and eat it. This is my body,

which is given up for you. Do this in remembrance of me.

In the same way he took the cup and gave you thanks and praise, he gave the cup to his disciples and said:

Take this all of you and drink from it, this is the cup of my blood, the blood of the new and everlasting covenant,

shed for you and for all so that sins may be forgiven.

Do this in remembrance of me.

So we proclaim the mystery of faith:  
**Christ has died.  
Christ is risen.  
Christ will come again.**

Merciful God, we come to this table seeking reconciliation:

with you, with one another, and with all creation.

Through these mysteries reconcile us to our world

and empower us to restore your Creation and fulfil your will.

Send your life-giving Spirit upon us, and all the earth.

Stir in us the creative and redeem the destructive.

Heal your stricken world, that the soil, the skies,

and the seas may be filled with your life anew.

Fill every heart with the sure and certain hope

that we shall enter into the fullness of your joy,

when your whole Creation is justified by faith

and sanctified by love, and you are all in all,

through Christ and with Christ and in Christ,

in the unity of the Spirit, all honour and glory is yours,

everlasting God, now and forever. **Amen.**

*As Jesus taught us, so we pray*

**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 forever.  Amen.**

**Breaking of the Bread**

We break this bread  
to share in the body of Christ.

**Though we are many, we are one body,  
because we all share in one bread.**

**The Agnus Dei**

**Lamb of God,  
you take away the sin of the world,  
have mercy on us.**

**Lamb of God,   
you take away the sin of the world,   
have mercy on us.**

**Lamb of God,   
you take away the sin of the world,  
grant us peace.**

**Invitation to Communion**

This is Living Bread, given for all Creation.

**All who eat this bread share in Christ’s Body.**

**Prayer after Communion**

Create in us a new heart and a new vision, O God,  
that the gifts of your Spirit may work  
in us and renew the face of the earth.

May we be one with you  
so that our work is yours  
and your work is ours.  
Lead us to transform our lives  
to reflect your glory in Creation;  
through Jesus Christ our Saviour  
who is alive with you and the Holy Spirit,  
one God now and for ever. **Amen.**

**The Blessing**

Go forth confident in the hope

in which you have been saved:

praise God in all creation:

follow Christ through whom all things are made:

in the power of the Spirit

become a beacon of hope to the world:

and the blessing of the Creator God,

the Eternal Father, the Risen Son and the promised Holy Spirit bless you that you might be a blessing to others

today and always. **Amen.**

Tend the earth, care for God’s good creation,  
and bring forth the fruits of righteousness.  
Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

**In the name of Christ. Amen.**