

Wednesday, April 21, 2021– Christ’s Church Cathedral

**TOUCH THE EARTH LIGHTLY**  
**A Hymn Festival On The Eve Of Earth Day**

**MEMORIAL OF ANSELM,**  
**Archbishop of Canterbury, Teacher of the Faith, 1109**

*A hymn or song of praise reminds us of who God is and what we have been promised. And so, a hymn festival is an occasion centered on these hymns and songs of praise— songs sung in community gathering our prayer and praises into one.*

*Today’s hymn festival explores the theology around stewardship of the earth and the honouring of its particular role in sustaining life here on this planet. We can trace the story of creation in Genesis, yet the language often presented in biblical translations is one of mastery, dominion and*

*exploitation. As our society has become more aware of our role as partners with creation, biblical interpretation as expressed in hymnody has evolved to a different language and regard for that role. Barbara Brown Taylor in her sermon “The Dominion of Love” declares that “while God may have made humans for a special purpose we were not made of any more special stuff than the rest of creation... God gave us dominion, true, but God did not pronounce us better than anything else that God had made.” The hymns chosen for this hymn festival come from the recently issued hymnal Hymns Ancient and Modern.*

*Many of them are of contemporary origin and attempt to broaden the experience of caring for God’s creation in a responsible and respectful way. The imagery is vivid and colourful and the tunes, some of which may be newer for you, are well paired to the texts at hand.*



*Today we remember Anselm, a brilliant theologian and archbishop of Canterbury from the year 1093 until his death sixteen years later. A wandering scholar, he became a monk at the Norman abbey of Bec, where he established his reputation as a teacher. He had a lively and inquiring mind, and was restless until he had discovered the inner coherence of basic Christian doctrines. He summed up his attitude in a philosophical meditation entitled, Faith Seeking Understanding. Anselm’s fame as a teacher, and his gifts as a spiritual director, brought him the highest positions in his abbey and eventually led to his election as archbishop of Canterbury. The King of England, William II, was determined to make the Church submissive to his will. He endured two periods of exile in France and Italy in order to make his point. In the end a compromise was negotiated, and Anselm returned to Canterbury, where he died in 1109.*

*Animators* – Mark Russom, Dr. Tim Dobbin and Michael Bloss  
*Organ and Piano* – Michael Bloss

## Words of Introduction

**Organ**            Hymne au Soleil (*Pièces de Fantaisie Op. 53*)            Louis Vierne

**Prayer** (*all respond at the bold text*)

Creator God,  
because you make all that draws forth our praise  
and the forms in which to express it,  
**we praise you.**

Because you make artists of us all,  
awakening courage to look again at what is taken for granted,  
grace to share these insights with others,  
vision to reveal the future already in being,  
**we praise you.**

Because you form your Word among us,  
and in your great work embrace all human experience,  
even death itself, inspiring our resurrection song,  
**we praise you.**  
**Yours is the glory.**  
**Amen.**

# Commentary

## Hymn – All Creatures of our God and King

TEXT: William Henry Draper (based on St. Francis of Assisi)

MUSIC: Melody from an Easter Hymn in *Geistliche Kirchengesang*, Cologne, 1623.

LASST UNS ERFREUEN

All crea-tures of our God and King, lift  
Thou rush-ing wind that art so strong, ye  
Thou flow-ing wa-ter, pure and clear, make  
Dear mo-ther earth, who day by day un-  
Let all things their cre-a-a-tor bless, and  
up your voice and with us sing, Al-le-lu-ia, al-le-  
clouds that sail in heav'n a-long, O\_\_\_ praise him,  
mu-sic for thy Lord to hear Al-le-lu-ia  
fold-est bless-ings on our way: O\_\_\_ praise him,  
wor-ship him in hum-ble-ness; O\_\_\_ praise him,  
lu-ia! Thou burn-ing sun with gol-den beam, thou  
Thou ris-ing morn, in praise re-joyce; ye  
Thou fire, so mas-ter-ful and bright, that  
The flow'rs and fruits that in thee grow, let  
Praise, praise the Fa-ther, praise the Son, and  
sil-ver moon with soft-er gleam: O\_\_\_ praise him, O\_\_\_  
lights of eve-ning, find a voice:  
giv-est us both warmth and light:  
them his glo-ry al-so show:  
praise the Spi-rit, Three in One:  
praise him, Al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia,  
lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia.

## Commentary

### Hymn – Lord, bring the day to pass

TEXT: Ian Masson Fraser (b. 1917)

MUSIC: Henry Lawes (1596-1662). LAWES'S PSALM 47



Lord, bring the day to pass when for-est rock and hill the  
For - give our care-less use of wa - ter, ore and soil the  
Give us, when we re - lease cre - a-tion's se - cret pow'rs, to  
Cre - a - tion groans, tra - vails, fu - tile its pre-sent plight, bound



beasts the birds the grass will know your fin - ished will: when we at - tain our  
plen - ty we a - buse sup - plied by oth - er's toil: save us from mak - ing  
har - ness them for peace our chil - dren's peace and ours: teach us the art of  
till the hour it hails God's chil - dren born of light who en - ter on their



des - ti - ny and na - ture lives in harm - o - ny.  
self our creed, turn us to - wards each o - ther's need.  
mas - ter - ing in ser - vant form, which draws death's sting.  
true es - tate. Come, Lord: new heav'ns and earth cre - ate.

## Commentary

### Hymn – Above the moon, earth rises

TEXT: Thomas H. Troeger (b. 1945)

MUSIC: Irish folk melody (*The Maids of Mourne Shore*) arr. John Bell (b. 1949). SALLEY GARDENS



A - bove the moon earth ris - es, a sun - lit mos - sy stone, a  
The mos sy stone is griev - ing its tears are bit - ter rain, the  
O lis - ten to the sigh - ing of wa - ter sky and land, and  
A death if hearts now har - den, a birth if we re - pent and



gar - den that God, priz - es where life has rich - ly grown, an  
gar - den is un - leav - ing and all its har - vests wane, the  
hear the Spi - rit cry - ing, the fu - ture is at hand: the  
tend and keep the gar - den as God has al - ways meant: to



em - er - ald se - lec - ted for us to guard with care an  
em - er - ald is clou - ded its lus - tre dims and fades, the  
moss and gar - den thinn - ing por - tend a death or birth, the  
sow with - out a - bus - ing the soil where life is grown, to



isle in space pro - tec - ted by one thin reef of air.  
isle of life is shrou - ded in thick and stag - nant haze.  
end or new be - ginn - ing for all that lives on earth.  
reap with - out our bruising the sun - lit mos - sy stone.

## Commentary

### Hymn – Journey to Easter.

MUSIC AND TEXT: Christina Wetmore, 1989.

Sun that a - wa - kens night to day, Light of the  
 Wa - ter that swells and bursts the grain, Wa - ter from  
 Green earth ar - rives from na - ture's nest, Blink - ing a -  
 We join the crea - tures in their dance, Leap - ing for  
 Sun that a - ris - es each new day, Christ light that

hea - vens, come our way, We are the seeds as - leep be - low,  
 snow and ice and rain, Gives us the dream of what we'll be,  
 live from win - ter's rest. We al - so breathe a new re - birth,  
 joy at spring's ad - vance. God's Son will bright - en ev - ery room,  
 leads us on our way, all earth and hea - ven sing a - gain,

We look to you for strength to grow. Light to — guide us,  
 grow - ing and giv - ing life from Thee.  
 Watch - ing and chang - ing with the earth.  
 ris - ing ra - diant from the tomb.  
 Al - le - lu - ia, A - men.

Christ be - side\_ us, Fill our world with Life and Love.

## Commentary

### Hymn: Let all creation dance

TEXT: Brian Wren (b. 1936)

MUSIC: John Darwall (1731-1789). DARWALL'S 148th.

Let all cre - a - tion dance in e - ner - gies sub - lime, as  
 God's breath each force un - furls ig - ni - ting from a spark ex -  
 Our own a - maz - ing earth with sun - light, cloud and storms, and  
 Lift heart and soul and voice: in Christ all prais - es meet, and

or - der turns with chance un - fold - ing space and time; for na - ture's  
 pan - ding star - ry twirls with whirl - pools dense and dark. Though moon and  
 life's a - bun - dant growth in love - ly shapes and forms is made for  
 na - ture shall re - joice as all is made com - plete. In hope be

art in glo - ry grows and new - ly shows God's mind and heart.  
 sun seem mind - less things, each or - bit sings: "your will be done."  
 praise, a fra - gile whole, and from its soul heav'n's mu - sic plays.  
 strong, all life be - friend and kind - ly tend cre - a - tion's song.

## Commentary

### Hymn: Touch the earth lightly

TEXT: Shirley Erena Murray (b. 1931)

MUSIC: Tony Alonso (b. 1980).



Touch the earth light - ly use the earth gent - ly nour-ish the  
We who en - dan - ger who cre - ate hun - ger a - gents of  
Let there be green-ing birth from the burn-ing wa - ter that  
God of all liv - ing, God of all lov - ing, God of the

life of the world in our care; gift of great won - der,  
death for all crea-tures that live, we who would fos - ter  
bless - es and air that is sweet, health in God's gar - den,  
seed-ling, the snow and the sun, teach us de - flect us

ours to sur - ren - der, trust for the chil-dren to - mor-row will bear.  
clouds of dis - as - ter God of our plan - et, fore - stall and for - give.  
hope in God's chil - dren, re - gen - er - a - tion that peace will com - plete.  
Christ re con - nect us u - sing us gent - ly and mak - ing us one.

## Collect for Anselm

O God, who raised up your servant Anselm to be a guide and teacher of faith in its quest for understanding, provide your Church in every age with godliness and sound learning, that we may have power to speak the reason for the hope that is in us; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

**Amen**

## Prayer for People Facing Great Uncertainty

God of the present moment,  
God who in Jesus stills the storm and soothes the frantic heart;  
bring hope and courage to all who wait or work in uncertainty.  
Bring hope that you will make them the equal of whatever lies ahead.  
Bring them courage to endure what cannot be avoided,  
for your will is health and wholeness;  
you are God, and we need you.  
**Amen.**

**Prayer of Parting** *(said by all)*

God of majesty, whom saints and angels delight to worship in heaven:  
Be with all your people who employ art and music for your praise,  
that with joy we on earth may glimpse your beauty;  
and bring us to the fulfillment of that hope of perfection which will be ours as  
we stand before your unveiled glory.  
We pray in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

**The Dismissal** *(all respond with the bold text)*

The love that raised Jesus from the dead be at work within you.  
Let us go in peace to love and serve the Lord! Alleluia, alleluia!

**In the name of Christ, Amen.**  
**Alleluia, alleluia.**

**Music** – Nunc Dimittis from Service in F George Dyson  
*(Sarah McPherson, Anne Kae, Mark Russom, Jeremy Ludwig)*

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NEXT WEDNESDAY, APRIL 28

EVENING PRAYER  
EASTER FERIA

*Officiant:* The Dean; *Cantor:* Jeremy Ludwig

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