



Hineni

Contemplative Service

6TH NOVEMBER 2020

TREE OF LIFE

WELCOME

“Let all the trees of the forest sing for joy” *Psalm 96:12*

OPENING SENTENCES

Where trees breathe

New life is born

Where each branch reaches out to us

We know ourselves held in the arms

of purest generosity

Where the leaves fall

We are blessed with giving back

that which nourishes the roots of our souls

For the tree reflects who and how we can be

Standing tall, true, honest and undeniably us

Unafraid to love, to give, to share and to bend

So we bless the forests

As we learn from them

Adapted from Clare Dubois

GATHERING PRAYER

Living God, may our worship join with all creation.

We celebrate the beauty and importance

of the trees that you have formed.
May we so respect and love trees
that we and they clap hands and sing for joy
as we praise God together. Amen

THE WORD OF GOD

Listen now for the word of God

Revelation 22:1-5

The angel showed me the river of the water of life, bright as crystal, flowing from the throne of God and of the Lamb through the middle of the street of the city. On either side of the river is the tree of life with its twelve kinds of fruit, producing its fruit each month; and the leaves of the tree are for the healing of the nations. Nothing accursed will be found there any more. But the throne of God and of the Lamb will be in it, and his servants will worship him; they will see his face, and his name will be on their foreheads. And there will be no more night; they need no light of lamp or sun, for the Lord God will be their light, and they will reign for ever and ever.

REFLECTION

MEDITATION

To meditate, sit still and upright. Close your eyes lightly. Sit relaxed but alert. Silently begin to say a single word.

We recommend the prayer phrase, 'Maranatha'.

Say it as four syllables of equal length.

Listen to it as you say it, gently but continuously.

Do not think or imagine anything – spiritual or otherwise.

If thoughts and images come, these are distractions at the time of meditation, so keep returning simply to saying the word.

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PRAYERS

Spirit of God, you make all things new, causing seeds to grow, buds to blossom, fruit to ripen.

Sow within our hearts the desire to live gently within the community of creation

Growing the fruits of justice, respect and love.

We thank you for tall trees that tower over us, for trees we can climb, for seeds that grow into mighty forests. We thank you for the colours of autumn, for fruit and nuts to nourish us, for shade and shelter.

We thank you that trees give homes and food to so many creatures, birds, insects, animals. The forest is full of the wonder and mystery of living things.

We carry the shame of the way we destroy so many trees, in the name of progress or through greed. We grieve for the damage this causes to wildlife and the poorest of our neighbours around the world.

Help us to find a better way that protects endangered species and grows our own sense of responsibility.

Spirit of God, renew your image in us, that we may celebrate the goodness of creation that glorifies you.

POEM – WHEN I AM AMONG THE TREES

by *Mary Oliver*

When I am among the trees,
especially the willows and the honey locust,
equally the beech, the oaks and the pines,
they give off such hints of gladness.
I would almost say that they save me, and daily.
I am so distant from the hope of myself,
in which I have goodness, and discernment,
and never hurry through the world
but walk slowly, and bow often.
Around me the trees stir in their leaves
and call out, “Stay awhile.”
The light flows from their branches.
And they call again, “It’s simple,” they say,
“and you too have come
into the world to do this, to go easy, to be filled
with light, and to shine.”

CLOSING PRAYER

May the word of God take root in your heart
Grow strongly in your life
And bear abundant fruit
And may the blessing of God
Father, Son and Spirit,
be with you and with all God’s creation,
now and evermore. Amen