

Eco-earth Defenders holiday club take-over service, 6th August 2023

With thanks to the Greenbelt festival material: [_GREENBELT-FESTIVAL-COMMUNION-2022-resources-for-publication.docx \(live.com\)](https://www.greenbeltfestival.org.uk/resources-for-publication.docx)

And the Rocha UK project: www.ecochurch.arocha.org.uk/

Call to worship:

BIBLE READING

Luke 12: 54-59 An interpretation of;

When you see clouds coming in from the west, you say, 'There's a storm coming,' and it does. And when the wind blows in from the south, you say, 'It's going to be hot,' and it is. You hypocrites! You know how to forecast the weather. How come you don't see the warnings I'm giving you about the crisis ahead?"

This is the Word of the Lord

Ongoing Activity during the service- natural celebration: As individuals, in pairs or small groups, use natural materials (leaves, sticks, grass, stones, feathers etc...) to create a picture of joy and celebration.

Prayer: Lord, we come to you now with our hearts and minds full. We have so many things going on, but now is the time to listen to you, and to hear your words. We put aside all the outside pressures and come into your inner circle of love and wisdom. Calm our minds so that we can focus on you Lord. Amen

Song: O Lord my God when I in awesome wonder R&S 117

Intro to eco-earth Defenders holiday club: brief description of the holiday club to include

- The countdown!
- Groups, point system, ages – 3 - 11, number of children over the week; 15.
- Upfront sessions, songs, bible stories, memory verses; Job 12 Verse 10: "The life of every creature and the breath of all people are in God's hands"
- Crafts/activities, Food activity and games.
- Interactive prayers
- Spoke about Influencers; David Attenborough and Greta Thunberg

Song: He's got the whole world in his hands MP225

(More verses please)

Bible reading: Nehemiah 1-13 (summary) (See separate sheet)

Questions and thoughts (see separate sheet)

Prayers

Creator God, thank you for your plan of no waste, so that in your created world, all waste is reused, repaired and recycled. We are sorry for when we have created waste and not thought about the effect this has in your world. Thank you for giving us the gift of creativity which allows us to show something of your character. Thank you for Nehemiah's creativity with taking broken bricks and rubbish rocks and making a strong and powerful wall which showed your power. Please help us to take our everyday waste and create it into something new. Thank you that you do not waste, and we ask that, even within our own lives, you would take those things which feel broken and rubbish and create them into something new. Amen

PRAYERS WITH THE PLANET

All you powerful things, praise the Lord:
Niagara Falls and Pacific Ocean,
Tiger and tyrannosaurus,
Killer whale and golden eagle,
Forces of gravity and pull of the tide,
Forked lightening and nuclear power;
Give praise to the one who created you.
ALL : Give praise to the one who created you.

All you weak things praise the Lord:
Sparkle of light and breath of the breeze,
Scuttling ant and wriggling tadpole,
Tear in the eye and hair on the head,
Soft feathers and gentle sighs,
Scents of the rose and dandelion seeds;
Give praise to the one who created you.
ALL Give praise to the one who created you.

Text: Peter Graystone

Talk:

In our holiday club this week we have had three days looking at God's creation, how we can care for it better and share what we have, and finally, how even though there is a lot to worry about the climate crisis, that worrying doesn't help and God doesn't want us to worry because God will take care of us.

Some people describe us as being part of the community of creation as everything in this world is all interconnected. This community is focused on being the best that God has made

them to be. The animals, fish and birds are beautiful and expressive; making new creatures to keep them living on the earth. The seas work with the moon's gravitational pull. The winds move over the surface of the water. Together the wind and the moon cause the movements of the water around the earth. The fungi recycle all waste. People work with God to enable all of creation to flourish. We are part of a wonderful community which gives praise back to the Creator God.

Did you know:

Did you know not only does everyone have unique fingerprints, but humans also have unique tongue prints?

Did you know a python snake can eat a whole pig in one big gulp?

Did you know that snails have 14,000 teeth and some can even kill you?

Did you know we cut down around 27,000 trees every day to make toilet paper?

Did you know the Earth experiences 50,000 earthquakes each year?

Did you know the average person has 67 different species of bacteria in their belly button?

Song: Creator God

Written by Nick & Becky Drake

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CCLI# 5100172

You put the stars in outer space
You popped the freckles on my face
And all the fish that swim and all the birds
that fly
Were made from Your incredible
imagination...

*Creator God, we're singing to the
Creator God of all the world
Creator God, we celebrate You
We celebrate You!*

You spread the ripples through the sea
You painted stripes on every bee
And all the grass that grows and all the
leaves that fall
Are part of Your amazing plans for this
creation...

You put the heat into the sun
You placed a heart in everyone
And all the music played and all the
dancing done
Reminds us that we're made to be
creative like...

Prayers

As we pray to God, let's remember that we are joining with the whole of creation in praising God.

- Spend a quiet moment just thinking about that: think about animals you know, birds you have seen around you, land which surrounds us – they are all praising God. [pause]
- Now, think about the wider earth and the animals, fish and birds which live around the world – they are all praising God. [pause]

- Finally, think about the whole universe – it was all made to give glory to God. [pause]

Creator God – we are in awe at the wonders of creation. Thank you for the beauty, power, creativity, variety, cleverness and love which creation shows about you. Thank you for the wonderful relationships there are between each part of creation and that we are part of this wonderful community of creation. Thank you Creator God. Amen.

Song: Our God is a great big God

The Children's Lords prayer:

Praise you, God.
You are very great in every way!
Please give us the things we need today.
For You will give us what we need.
We're sorry that we do wrong things and disobey.
For You forgive us when we say we are truly sorry.
God, help us in everything we do.
Please help us to live for you all through each day.
For You always listen when we talk – help us to listen when You Talk, Amen.

Contemporary Lords 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.

Song: All things bright and beautiful, alternative version

All things bright and beautiful,
All creatures great and small,
All things wise and wonderful,
The Lord God made them all.

All things bright and beautiful,
All creatures great and small,
All things wise and wonderful,
We humans trashed them all.

1 The purple headed mountains,
The rivers running by,
Are filled with deadly toxins,
Cascading from the sky.

2 Each little flower that opens,
Each little bird that sings,
Is tainted with the plastic,
We've thrown into our bins.

All things bright and beautiful,
All creatures great and small,
God who made the universe,
Looks out on us appalled.

3 The typhoons in the winter,
The burning summer sun,
The changes to the climate,
Have only just begun.

All things bright and beautiful,
All creatures great and small,
All things wise and wonderful,
We humans trashed them all.

4 The rich man in his castle,
The poor man at the gate,
All people high and lowly
Will suffer the same fate.

Prayers of confession:

Forgive us, Lord,
when we are not kind to others or the world around us;
forgive us if we have put up boundaries of difference, of preference,
of comfort, of attitude.
help us to take down any barriers we have created,
help us to share what we have, and not be greedy
so that we can receive your forgiveness
and begin again in your name. Amen.

Prayers of intercession;

- As the war continues in Ukraine, we pray for all those affected, and we pray for peace, Lord God help those in power to find a way to bring peace between Russia and Ukraine.
- As we hear news that our government will issue hundreds of new licences for oil and gas exploration in the North Sea. We pray for our government to listen to the scientists and rethink their policies.
- As pressure on household finances continues to be an issue, we pray for all the families and people we know who may be struggling. Give us the tools to help where we can and signpost on where we need to.
- We pray for our community in Rayleigh and surrounding area, we ask that through you Lord, we can be a shining light in this community of love, joy, peace and understanding, bringing your Spirit into this church and out into the community.

All things bright and beautiful,
All creatures great and small,
God who made the universe,
Looks out on us appalled.

5 God gave us eyes to see them,
And lips that we might tell,
The choices we are making
To turn the world to hell.

All things bright and beautiful,
All creatures great and small,
All things wise and wonderful,
We humans trashed them all.

Text by Cecil Frances Alexander

Adapted by Andrew and Peter Graystone

- And we pray for our own church family and friends, for those that are sick, in hospital, those who have lost loves one, anyone feeling low, or just unable to make it church today. Be with them all, wrap your healing arms around them Lord and let them know you are there.

Offering.

Dear God,

We have so much, and yet its not really ours, is it?

We are just passing through this world as your care takers and we've really not been reading the job description well.

Thankyou for all we have, and we ask your blessing on what we are giving here today, our gifts of money, our gifts of time and thought and action.

Amen.

Conclusion:

During our holiday club we have tried to be eco-earth defenders, defenders of the earth. We have learnt more about our world, and about what we can do to help defend it and make it a better place for everyone. We have learnt that it's not good to worry, and much better to do something helpful, just as Nehemiah did in our story today. I hope you will be taking away something from this service today. Is there something more you can do to help with the climate crisis, or to make this a better world for everything that lives on it?

BLESSING

Take the stone in your hands and feel it. Get to know it...but do not own it. It doesn't belong to you. It has a life of its own. It cries out to God with its own voice.

It doesn't belong to you. Of course it doesn't. You don't have to own everything. This stone has a work of its own to do. And so do you. But take this stone with you, and care for it as if were the whole world – which it is.

Be yourself. And if what this means is unclear to you, look around at the things of this earth. Study the stone which always does what it was made to do: it doesn't always fall in the same way, sometimes resting in high places and at other times finding its rest where the earth allows it to lie, but its purpose is to move downward, and in this, the stone loves God in the way it can, singing the new song which God gives each creature and thing – and also you who hear this and at times wonder what to do, and how to be.

Text by Meister Eckhart (c. 1260 – c. 1328)

Blessing song.

May God's blessing be upon you now
May you know of his great love for you
May God's blessing be upon you now
Right where you are
(Repeat X3)