

## **CHRISTIAN CLIMATE ACTION 'ART NOT OIL' - AGAPE LITURGY**

LEADER: We gather in the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

ALL: **Amen.**

### **SONG**

Amazing grace! How sweet the sound  
That saved a wretch like me!  
I once was lost, but now am found;  
Was blind, but now I see.

'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear,  
And grace my fears relieved;  
How precious did that grace appear  
The hour I first believed.

Through many dangers, toils and snares,  
I have already come;  
'Tis grace hath brought me safe thus far,  
And grace will lead me home.

When we've been here ten thousand years,  
Bright shining as the sun,  
We've no less days to sing God's praise  
Than when we'd first begun.

### **OPENING REFLECTION**

We gather here to celebrate our hope of a new world, the reign of God as proclaimed by Jesus. Our hope is that of God's world free of exploitation and oppression, a world based on care for the earth, our common home, a world that relies on renewable energy rather than destructive fossil fuel extraction and consumption.

We know that to celebrate this hope, means also to oppose the powers of destruction, selfishness and despair, both within ourselves and in our society. As such we also come here to oppose BP's sponsorship of this Museum, in prayer, presence and action. And, to recognise the truth of the history of the British Empire which this Museum celebrates, a history of invasion, exploitation and oppression.

We begin our prayer, by recognising that despite God's blessing the earth with glorious fertility and life, we need to repent from our part in the life of our society which is contributing to making it an 'immense pile of filth' (Pope Francis).

For our complicity by silence and complacency in the sin of fossil fuel disruption of the climate of our common home,

**Lord, have mercy. R/**

For our participation in our social and economic system that is destroying God's gift of immensely varied life on earth,

**Christ, have mercy. R/**

For our blindness and deafness to the Word of God in Scripture and nature, calling us to repentance from the comforts of the consumer lifestyle,

**Lord, have mercy. R/**

ALL: We commit ourselves anew to seeing the affliction of the earth, hearing its cry, and knowing its suffering. We commit ourselves to learning more about the changes that are needed. We commit ourselves to embarking on that long and difficult road toward life lived in harmony with all God's creation. In covenant with God and with the wisdom of the Holy Spirit, we are called to action in the name of Jesus the Christ. Amen.

#### BIBLE READINGS

GENESIS: 2:7-8, 15

LUKE: 21:5-19

SHARE REFLECTIONS on readings, sharing bread and wine, fossil fuels, BP, British Museum, etc.

#### PRAYERS of INTERCESSION

#### SONG

1. Blest are you, Lord, God of all creation,  
thanks to your goodness this bread we offer:  
fruit of the earth, work of our hands,  
it will become the bread of life.  
Blessed be God! Blessed be God!  
Blessed be God forever! Amen! (Repeat)

2. Blest are you, Lord, God of all creation,  
thanks to your goodness this wine we offer:  
fruit of the earth, work of our hands,  
it will become the cup of life.  
Blessed be God! Blessed be God!  
Blessed be God forever! Amen! (Repeat)

### SHARING OF BREAD AND WINE

LEADER: Let us share the bread and wine as a celebration of hope - a sign that if we share what we have there is enough for all.

On the night before he was arrested and taken to be executed by the Empire of the day, Jesus was at supper with His disciples. He took bread, then wine, and said:

Take this bread, my body broken for you. (SHARE BREAD)  
[And then]

Take this cup, my blood, spilled for you. Do this in memory of me. (SHARE WINE)

### CLOSING PRAYER

L: Lord, we thank you for giving us bread and wine, fruit of the earth and work of human hands. We pray that our life and work will bless the earth community, defending and promoting the variety and fruitfulness that you intend for all forms of life. We make our prayer through Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

### FINAL SONG

O Lord my God! When I in awesome wonder  
Consider all the works thy hand hath made,  
I see the stars, I hear the mighty thunder,  
Thy power throughout the universe displayed;

Refrain:

Then sings my soul, my Saviour God, to Thee,  
How great Thou art, how great Thou art!  
Then sings my soul, my Saviour God, to Thee,  
How great Thou art, how great Thou art!

When through the woods and forest glades I wander  
and hear the birds sing sweetly in the trees;  
when I look down from lofty mountain grandeur,  
and hear the brook, and feel the gentle breeze;

Refrain

When Christ shall come with shout of acclamation  
And claim his own - what joy shall fill my heart!  
Then I shall bow in humble adoration  
And there proclaim, my God, how great thou art!

Refrain

## WHY WE ARE HERE

Take this bread, my body broken for you.  
Take this cup, my blood, spilled for you.  
Do this in memory of me.

Jesus Christ said these words shortly before he was executed by the Roman Empire. This Museum is a temple to another Empire, the British Empire, and is being sponsored by BP, one of the gods or ruling powers of the current global capitalist empire that is destroying the earth, our common home, and especially our climate. Jesus stood up to the Roman Empire and called for repentance of our participation in the Empire's systems of oppression and exploitation.

So, in a spirit of repentance, we ask the British Museum to reject BP's money and influence and to begin to tell a story that is consistent with a culture of Justice, Peace and the Integrity of Creation.

We see the program of oppression, extraction and exploitation that has now set catastrophic climate change in motion as an economic extension of the British Empire which the British Museum generally presents in a distorting and flattering light.

We believe BP to be a climate criminal, devoted to corrupting our politics, commerce, land, sea and sky as well as our culture. For a museum dedicated to showcasing civilizations, it is inappropriate to offer credence to a company whose business plan threatens to bring our civilization to an end. We are here to pray for the conversion of this Museum, and BP, to a fossil fuel free and exploitation free world.

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