

The Festival of Creation in Christ

In July 2026, alongside the publication of *Hope for All Creation*, the Church of England Synod gave final approval to a new annual Festival of Creation in Christ, to be celebrated in C of E churches on the first Sunday in September. The new Festival is one of the fruits of a growing ecumenical movement across churches worldwide. It offers an opportunity for Christians to give thanks for God's creation and redemption of the world, reflect on humanity's responsibility to care for the natural world and pray for its renewal.

The title "Creation in Christ" emphasises that creation is understood through the person and work of Jesus Christ: created through him, sustained in him and destined for renewal in him. The new liturgical resources are centred on creation, stewardship and hope and are intended to draw Christians through worship and prayer toward playing their part in the Church's mission to "safeguard the integrity of creation and sustain and renew the life of the earth".

Kahui Wahine o Te Tai Tokerau

From: Te Ara mo te Rongopai, collection of prayers, hymns & liturgies.

We praise you O God,
you are the Creator of all the many blessings
you have bestowed upon us.

May we value more this world that you have given us
and help us to preserve the beauty of your creation.

Keep us aware of our need for you
and of your unfailing love for us.

Amen



Festival of Creation in Christ

6th September 2026

GATHERING HYMN:

'All Creature of Our God and King' (6) *We omit verses 5 & 6*

COLLECT:

Holy and eternal God,
you are the Maker of heaven and earth,
you are the Word through whom all things were made,
and you are the Spirit, the giver of life:
draw us into the mystery of your love,
that with all creation we may proclaim your praise,
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen

FIRST READING

Isaiah 55: 12-end

For 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.
Instead of the thorn shall come up the cypress;
instead of the brier shall come up the myrtle;
and it shall be to the Lord for a memorial,
for an everlasting sign that shall not be cut off.



For the word of the Lord

Thanks be to God

SECOND READING

Colossians 1: 15-20

He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation; for in him all things in heaven and on earth were created, things visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or powers—all things have been created through him and for him. He himself is before all things, and in him all things hold together. He is the head of the

body, the church; he is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, so that he might come to have first place in everything. For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, and through him God was pleased to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, by making peace through the blood of his cross.

For the word of the Lord

Thanks be to God

GRADUAL HYMN: 'For the Fruits of His Creation' (169)

We sing verse 4 after the Gospel Reading

GOSPEL

John 1: 1-14

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.

There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.

He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God.

And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth.

OFFERTORY HYMN: 'Father, Lord of All Creation' (144)

COMMUNION HYMNS:

'For the Beauty of the Earth' (167)

'Beauty for Brokenness' (54)

'Bless the Lord My Soul' (75)

POST COMMUNION

God our Creator,
by your gift the tree of life was set
at the heart of the earthly paradise,
and the bread of life at the heart of your Church:
may we who have been nourished at your table on earth
be transformed by the glory of the Saviour's cross
and enjoy the delights of eternity;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

FINAL HYMN: 'Praise My Soul the King of Heaven' (550)

