

Sunday 20th September 2026
Third Sunday in the Season of Creation
Readings, Collect and Year's Mind

Opening Hymn CAHON 714 We hail thy presence glorious

Collect for the Third Sunday in The Season of Creation

God the Creator,
in Christ you call all people
to the fullness of glory
for which you created us in your image:
heal our hardened hearts,
renew our obedience to your will,
and conform our lives to your gracious design,
through Jesus Christ our Lord,
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever. **Amen**

First Lesson Jonah 3: 10 - 4: 11

A reading from Jonah, chapter 3 verse 10 to chapter 4 verse 11.

³¹⁰When God saw what [the people of Nineveh] did, how they turned from their evil ways, God changed his mind about the calamity that he had said he would bring upon them; and he did not do it.

⁴¹But this was very displeasing to Jonah, and he became angry. ²He prayed to the LORD and said, 'O LORD! Is not this what I said while I was still in my own country? That is why I fled to Tarshish at the beginning; for I knew that you are a gracious God and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love, and ready to relent from punishing. ³And now, O LORD, please take my life from me, for it is better for me to die than to live.' ⁴And the LORD said, 'Is it right for you to be angry?' ⁵Then Jonah went out of the city and sat down east of the city, and made a booth for himself there. He sat under it in the shade, waiting to see what would become of the city.

⁶The LORD God appointed a bush, and made it come up over Jonah, to give shade over his head, to save him from his discomfort; so Jonah was very happy about the bush. ⁷But when dawn came up the next day, God appointed a worm that attacked the bush, so that it withered. ⁸When

the sun rose, God prepared a sultry east wind, and the sun beat down on the head of Jonah so that he was faint and asked that he might die. He said, 'It is better for me to die than to live.'

⁹But God said to Jonah, 'Is it right for you to be angry about the bush?' And he said, 'Yes, angry enough to die.' ¹⁰Then the LORD said, 'You are concerned about the bush, for which you did not labour and which you did not grow; it came into being in a night and perished in a night. ¹¹And should I not be concerned about Nineveh, that great city, in which there are more than a hundred and twenty thousand people who do not know their right hand from their left, and also many animals?'

Sun 9am Here endeth the Lesson.

Sun 10.45 This is the Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Gospel Reading **Matthew 20: 1-16**

A reading from the Gospel according to Matthew, chapter 20. Verses 1 to 16.

Sun 9am Glory be to thee, O Lord.

Sun 10.45 Glory to Christ our Saviour.

[Jesus taught his disciples:] ¹'The kingdom of heaven is like a landowner who went out early in the morning to hire labourers for his vineyard. ²After agreeing with the labourers for the usual daily wage, he sent them into his vineyard. ³When he went out about nine o'clock, he saw others standing idle in the market-place; ⁴and he said to them, "You also go into the vineyard, and I will pay you whatever is right." So they went. ⁵When he went out again about noon and about three o'clock, he did the same. ⁶And about five o'clock he went out and found others standing around; and he said to them, "Why are you standing here idle all day?" ⁷They said to him, "Because no one has hired us." He said to them, "You also go into the vineyard."

⁸When evening came, the owner of the vineyard said to his manager, "Call the labourers and give them their pay, beginning with the last and then going to the first." ⁹When those hired about five o'clock came, each of them received the usual daily wage. ¹⁰Now when the first came, they thought they would receive more; but each of them also received

the usual daily wage. ¹¹And when they received it, they grumbled against the landowner, ¹²saying, “These last worked only one hour, and you have made them equal to us who have borne the burden of the day and the scorching heat.” ¹³But he replied to one of them, “Friend, I am doing you no wrong; did you not agree with me for the usual daily wage? ¹⁴Take what belongs to you and go; I choose to give to this last the same as I give to you. ¹⁵Am I not allowed to do what I choose with what belongs to me? Or are you envious because I am generous?” ¹⁶So the last will be first, and the first will be last.’

Sun 9am Thanks be to thee, O Lord, for this thy glorious Gospel.

Sun 10.45 Give thanks to the Lord for his glorious Gospel.
Praise to Christ our Lord.

We offer particular prayers for

Andy, Masami, Pat W, Marian, Roddy, Bill, Sheila K, Jenny, Joan M., Betty, Catherine, Catriona D, Delia, Jane T., Emma A., Alison B., Joseph, Johnny, Alice; Countries suffering war, violence or natural disaster; the people of Nepal, Tibet, Venezuela, Syria, Palestine, Israel, Lebanon, Iran and the Gulf States, Ukraine and Sudan.

We also include in our prayers those in our Year’s Mind:

Helen Forrester, Margaret Anderson, Edward Syme, Michael Clayton, Matt Murray, Alec Mann, Doreen Stephen, Raymond Broughton, Arthur Forrester.

Offertory Hymn CAHON 184 For the beauty of the earth

Anthem Praise, O Praise our God and King How

Post Communion Prayer

Ruler of the universe,
all creation yearns for its fulfilment in your Son.
May we who have shared in holy things grow into maturity in him.
This we ask in the name of the same Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

Closing Hymn CAHON 185 For the fruits of the Creation

Readings for the day

***Jonah 3: 10 - 4: 11; Psalm 145: 1-8; Philippians 1: 21-30; *Matthew 20: 1-16**

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