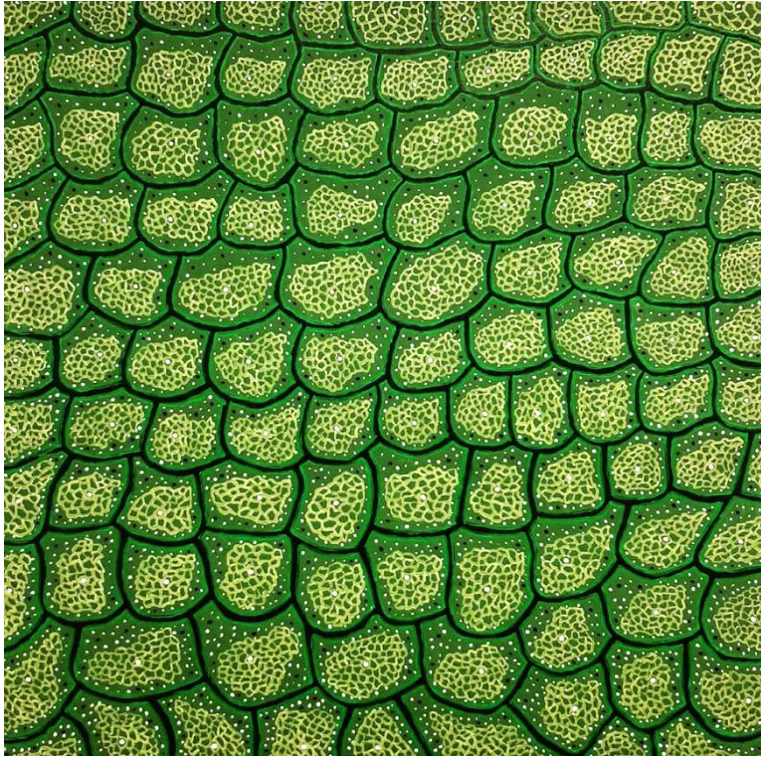


**MORNING PRAYER  
THE THIRD SUNDAY OF THE  
SEASON OF CREATION  
19 SEPTEMBER 2021**



'Cells', The Rev'd David Kerr.

**HOLY TRINITY CATHEDRAL, WANGARATTA**

**PRAYER FOR THE WEEK**

God of the living earth, you called us to be part of your beloved community, baptised into one family through the sacred waters of life called to care together for your world. Guide as we work to sustain our common home. Help us to find the path to living in peace and harmony with all your creatures united by the divine dance of the Trinity. Amen.

HYMN

PRAISE TO THE LORD, THE ALMIGHTY

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0QQezNMfaL4>

Lyrics are in the video

Whoever wants to be first must be last of all and servant of all. Mark 9:35

Open our lips, O Lord,  
**and we shall declare your praise.**

This is the day that the Lord has made,  
**we will rejoice and be glad in it.**

OPENING CANTICLE

Creator, you bent the earth like a bow  
until it was one, round, shining planet.

At your word the land was drawn  
into mountains and deserts, forests and plains;  
the waters were gathered together  
into rivers, lakes and seas.

Many times, when people crossed these seas from other lands,  
they broke the circle of your creation by their greed and violence,  
and they shattered the lives of others.

Creator, renew the circle of the earth  
and turn the hearts of all people to one another;  
that they and all the earth may live  
and be drawn toward you  
through the power of your Son,  
who lives with you and the Holy Spirit  
in the circle of the Trinity, forever One.

Kelly Sherman Conroy  
Evangelical Lutheran Church

*The Opening Prayer*

As we rejoice in the gift of this new day,  
so may the light of your presence, O God,  
set our hearts on fire with love for you; now and for ever. Amen.

## ACT OF PENITENCE

Lord Jesus Christ, the firstborn of creation, in whom all things in heaven and on earth were created, things visible and invisible,  
Lord, have mercy.

You who are before all things and in whom all things hold together, the head of the church,  
Christ, have mercy.

In you all the fullness of God dwells and through you God was pleased to reconcile to himself all things in heaven and on earth,  
Lord, have mercy

Col. 1:15-20

God who in His wisdom sent us Jesus Christ  
as an offering for our sins, once and for all,  
forgive us our sins  
and restore through the cross of Christ  
our relationship with himself,  
with each other and with all of creation. Amen.

## THE MINISTRY OF THE WORD

Heavenly Father, give us wisdom and understanding. As we listen to your Word, may we know you better, love you more, and learn to please you in all we do; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

## PSALM 54: 1-4, 6

- 1 Save me, O God, by the power of your name:  
and vindicate me by your might.
- 2 Hear my prayer, O God:  
and listen to the words of my mouth.
- 3 For the insolent have risen against me:  
the ruthless, who have not set God before them, seek my life.
- 4 But surely God is my helper:  
the Lord is the upholder of my life.
- 6 Then will I offer you sacrifice with a willing heart:  
I will praise your name, O Lord, for it is good.

## FIRST READING

Proverbs 31:10-31

A reading from the book of Proverbs

A capable wife who can find? She is far more precious than jewels. The heart of her husband trusts in her, and he will have no lack of gain. She does him good, and not harm, all the days of her life. She seeks wool and flax and works with willing hands. She is like the ships of the merchant, she brings her food from far away. She rises while it is still night and provides food for her household and tasks for her servant-girls. She considers a field and buys it; with the fruit of her hands she plants a vineyard. She girds herself with strength and makes her arms strong. She perceives that her merchandise is profitable. Her lamp does not go out at night. She puts her hands to the distaff, and her hands hold the spindle. She opens her hand to the poor and reaches out her hands to the needy. She is not afraid for her household when it snows, for all her household are clothed in crimson. She makes herself coverings; her clothing is fine linen and purple. Her husband is known in the city gates, taking his seat among the elders of the land. She makes linen garments and sells them; she supplies the merchant with sashes. Strength and dignity are her clothing, and she laughs at the time to come. She opens her mouth with wisdom, and the teaching of kindness is on her tongue. She looks well to the ways of her household and does not eat the bread of idleness. Her children rise up and call her happy; her husband too, and he praises her: 'Many women have done excellently, but you surpass them all.' Charm is deceitful, and beauty is vain, but a woman who fears the Lord is to be praised. Give her a share in the fruit of her hands, and let her works praise her in the city gates.

Your word is a lamp to my feet, a light to my path.

## SECOND READING

Mark 8:27-38

A reading from the Gospel of Mark

After leaving the mountain Jesus and his disciples went on from there and passed through Galilee. He did not want anyone to know it; for he was teaching his disciples, saying to them, 'The Son of Man is to be betrayed into human hands, and they will kill him, and three days after being killed, he will rise again.' But they did not understand what he was saying and were afraid to ask him.

Then they came to Capernaum; and when he was in the house he asked them, 'What were you arguing about on the way?' But they were silent, for on the way they had argued with one another about who was the greatest. He sat down, called the twelve, and said to them, 'Whoever wants to be first must be last of all and servant of all.' Then he took a little child and put it

among them; and taking it in his arms, he said to them, 'Whoever welcomes one such child in my name welcomes me, and whoever welcomes me welcomes not me but the one who sent me.'

May your word live in us and bear much fruit to your glory.

HYMN

DEAR LORD AND FATHER OF MANKIND

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=o4KnlQwzl3Y&t=20s>

Lyrics are in the video

SERMON

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

We have faith in One God, one Source of all life.

One Ground of the whole earth, with all her creatures.

We have faith in the fullness of earth's life,  
in the innate worth of all her dependents,  
in human partnership in the life of nature.

We have faith that in Christ we have been shown  
the special role of the human race  
to bear God's likeness in working and caring for the earth,  
in seeking to understand her mysteries  
and powers, in gently working  
with these powers for the well-being of  
all children of the earth.

We have faith that God's Spirit will lead us to  
sensitive closeness with earth's life.

ECEN

*The Prayers*

Lord have mercy.

Christ have mercy.

Lord have mercy.

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.  
Save us from the time of trial  
and deliver us from evil.  
For the kingdom, the power,  
and the glory are yours  
now and for ever. Amen.

### *The Collect of the Day*

Let us pray.

God and Father of all, you have taught us that through your Son that the last shall be first, and have made a little child the measure of your kingdom: give us the wisdom from above, so that we may understand that in your sight the one who serves is the greatest of all. We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

### *Intercessions*

Creator God, we thank you for your word, the word that was with you at the creation of the world, the word that went forth from you and created light and separated it from the darkness, creating land and separating it from the waters, giving life every creature and calling us to be the carers of all you created. We thank you for Jesus, the promised Messiah, who came to earth as the word made flesh and taught us how to live.

Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

We acknowledge before you that we haven't always lived up to our calling to be stewards of your gifts. Forgive us for our lack of care that has caused pollution of the land, sea and air. Forgive us for our greed that has caused the over-use of water, the extinction of insects, birds, fish and animals, the burning of forests and the exploitation of people. Forgive our love for war and violence through which we have disrupted countries, displaced people, poached animals and caused devastation for the earth.

Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

We ask your blessings on the leaders of our country, the ministers of your word and sacrament and the faithful here gathered. May we be channels of your grace and companions in your transformation in the world. We ask these things through Christ who loves us and the Holy Spirit who empowers us.

Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer

We bring before you all who suffer; the sick, the homeless, the unemployed and the lonely. We pray for comfort for the bereaved and rest for those who have gone before us.

Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

We thank you for teachers of the faith who remind us of your grace and your love for us. For teachers in places of learning who help us understand your wisdom in creation and open for us new ways of knowing you and praising you. We thank you for homes and institutions that teach values of love, fairness and godly living and for all who pass on the story of your salvation from one generation to another.

Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

*At the end of the prayers:*

Gracious God, we humbly thank you for all your gifts so freely bestowed on us, for life and health and safety, for freedom to work and leisure to rest, and for all that is beautiful in creation and in human life. But above all, we thank you for our Saviour, Jesus Christ, for his death and resurrection, for the gift of your Spirit, and for the hope of glory. Fill our hearts with all joy and peace in believing; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

*The Morning Collect*

Eternal God and Father, by whose power we are created, and by whose love we are redeemed: Guide and strengthen us by your Spirit, that we may give ourselves to your service, and live this day in love to one another and to you; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Let us praise the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

Renewing Spirit, Creator God, look upon our faces gathered in holy community together and send us anywhere you would have us go, so that we may embody the ministry of justice for your Creation through our actions. Walk with us so that we may face the winds of change and walk the good road. Enlighten us. sustain us and be with us this day and always. Amen.

HYMN

LORD OF ALL HOPEFULNESS

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LCBjxVP6GWE&t=8s>

Lyrics are in the video

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