

***Sunday Night @ St. Finian's: Climate Justice and the Integrity  
of Creation  
Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> July 2015, 6pm***

**ORDER OF SERVICE**



*Seats are put around the Taizé cross either outside or in the Lutherhaus hall  
facing out to the garden.  
A table with altar cloth and lit candle is placed before the cross.*

SONG **ER**

*Methadone Denial*

QUOTES & PRESENTATION OF BOOKS **MS, YL, AM, LC, MC**

*Each participant reads out a brief quote, shows the cover of the book / pamphlet and places it at the altar table.*

Opening Lines from Naomi Klein's *This Changes Everything*, 2014 **MS**

A voice came over the intercom: "Would passengers of Flight 3935 scheduled to depart Washington D.C. for Charleston, S.C., kindly collect their carry-on luggage and get off the plane."

They went down the stairs and gathered on the hot tarmac. There they saw something unusual: the wheels of the US Airways jet had sunk into the black pavement as if it were wet cement. The wheels were lodged so deep in fact that the truck that came to tow the plane away couldn't pry it loose. The airline had hoped that without the added weight of the flight's thirty-five passengers, the aircraft would be light enough to pull. It wasn't. Someone posted a picture: "Why is my flight cancelled? Because DC is so damn hot that our plane sank 4" into the pavement." [...] A spokesperson for the airline blamed the incident on "very unusual temperatures". [...]

The irony – the fact that the burning of fossil fuels is so radically changing our climate that it is getting in the way of our capacity to burn fossil fuels – this irony did not stop the passengers of Flight 3935 from re-embarking and continuing their journeys. Nor was climate change mentioned in any of the major news coverage of the incident.

Ireland **MC**

Climate change is affecting the poorest countries most severely and yet, Ireland has emissions per capita over eighty times higher than Ethiopia or Malawi. It's true: the people who are doing least to cause it are suffering the most.

Health **MC**

Compared with a future without climate change, the World Health Organisation predicts 250,000 additional deaths per year globally from 2030: 38,000 due to heat exposure in elderly people, 48,000 due to diarrhoea, 60,000 due to malaria, and 95,000 due to childhood under-nutrition.

From *Report by American Association for the Advancement of Science*, 2014 **MS**

Most projections of climate change presume that future changes – greenhouse gas emissions, temperature increases and effects such as sea level rise – will happen incrementally. However, the geological record for the climate reflects instances where a relatively small change in one element of climate led to abrupt changes in the system as a whole. In other words, pushing global temperatures past certain thresholds could trigger abrupt, unpredictable and potentially irreversible changes that have massive disruptive and large-scale impacts. At that point, [...], potentially unstoppable processes are set in motion. We can think of this as sudden climate brake and steering failure where the problem and its consequences are no longer something we can control.

Migration **LC**

Typhoon Haiyan forced some 4 million people in the Philippines to leave their homes, approximately 400,000 of whom are still in evacuation centres. In Kenya, a sea level rise of just 30cm will submerge 17 percent of Mombasa

Economics **LC**

In Honduras, hurricanes caused direct and indirect damages of over 5 billion US dollars over the course of the 20th century, equivalent to 95 per cent of Honduras GDP in 1998.

Continued from Naomi Klein's *This Changes Everything*, 2014 **MS**

"I am in no position to judge the passengers of Flight 3935. All of us who live high consumer lifestyles wherever we happen to reside, are metaphorically, passengers of Flight 3935. Faced with the crisis that threatens our survival as a species, our entire culture is continuing to do the very thing that caused the crisis, only with an extra dose of elbow grease behind it: [...] The global economy is upping the ante from conventional sources of fossil fuels to even dirtier and more dangerous versions – bitumen from tar sands in Alberta, Canada, oil from deep water drilling, gas from hydraulic fracturing [fracking]. Coal from detonated mountains, and so on" [...]

"I denied climate change for longer than I care to admit. I knew it was happening. But I stayed pretty hazy about the details and only skimmed the news stories especially the really scary ones. I told myself the science was too complicated and that the environmentalists were dealing with it. [...] A great many of us engage in this kind of climate change denial. We look for a split second and then we look away. Or we tell ourselves comforting stories about how humans are clever and will come up with a technological miracle that will safely suck the carbon out of the skies or magically turn down the heat of the sun.

SONG **ER**

*Wounded Bird*

WELCOME / INTRODUCTION

**AM**

**HYMN 561 Intro YL**

**Joyous Light of Heavenly Glory**

**MEDITATION & READINGS AM**

*Close your eyes. Take deep, slow breaths, conscious of the air that you are breathing into your body, air which energises you, heals you, gives you life. Repeat the following mantra: 'Lord you are closer to me than my own breathing' (St. Thérèse).*

*[pause] Take a moment to recall all of the things you have received from the earth since you were conceived... From the sun, from the land, from the air, from water [pause]. We received abundantly every day. In the past week, what have you received from the planet?*

We ask God's Spirit to be with us and guide us as we gather here today. Let us become aware of God's presence [pause]. Let us begin, not in our own name, but in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. **AMEN**

**READER 1**

**MC**

Our home, planet earth, God's creation, is an extraordinarily beautiful and fruitful place. It is appropriately called 'the garden planet' of the universe. We humans, with every other species, depend totally on the proper functioning of the planet for the air we breathe, the water we drink, the food that sustains us and the multiple other ways in which the earth supports us and every other creature. Though the earth appears very robust, we know that it can be quite fragile and that small changes, over time, can have enormous consequences for life.

**RESPONSE**

**Lord, give us the courage to be stewards and protectors of your creation. Help us to be more aware of the world around us, to listen to your creation, to hear what nature is saying to us.**

**READER 2**

**LC**

When I look at your heavens, the work of your fingers, the moon and the stars that you have established – what are human beings that you are mindful of them, mortals that you care for them? Yet you have made them a little lower than God, and crowned them with glory and honour. You have given them dominion over the works of your hands; you have put all things under their feet, all sheep and oxen, and also the beasts of the field, the birds of the air, the fish of the sea, whatever passes along the paths of the seas. O Lord, our Sovereign, how majestic is your name in all the earth!

**RESPONSE**

**Lord, give us the courage to be stewards and protectors of your creation. Help us to be more aware of the world around us, to listen to your creation, to hear what nature is saying to us.**

SCRIPTURE READING **YL**

*Book of Wisdom 11:21-26*

For it is always in Your power to show great strength, and who can withstand the might of Your arm? Because the whole world before You is like a speck that tips the scales, and like a drop of morning dew that falls on the ground. But You are merciful to all, for You can do all things, and You overlook people's sins, so that they may repent. For You love all things that exist, and detest none of the things that You have made, for You would not have made anything if You had hated it. How would anything have endured if You had not willed it? Or how would anything not called forth by You have been preserved? You spare all things, for they are Yours, O Lord, You who love the living.

SONG **ER**

*Isn't that Amazing?*

HOMILY **MS**

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION *Tying into Quotes at start* **MS, YL, AM, LC, MC**

*Each participant recites a prayer based on the theme brought up in their opening quote.*

**MC** We pray for the people of Ireland who contribute daily by means of taxes and levies to help to make Ireland a more energy efficient country, and contribute financial aid to countries more susceptible to the adverse effects of climate change.

**RESPONSE Creator and Redeemer, hear our prayer**

**MC** We pray for advancements in medicine and the work of the emergency services who provide first line responses to the victims of "natural disasters".

**RESPONSE Creator and Redeemer, hear our prayer**

**LC** We pray for the members of the International Organisation for Migration who support the states, migrants and communities in addressing the challenges of irregular migration.

**RESPONSE Creator and Redeemer, hear our prayer**

**LC** We pray for debt relief in the third world, to allow countries to develop mechanisms to reduce the effects of climate change on their citizens.

**RESPONSE Creator and Redeemer, hear our prayer**

**MS** We pray for ourselves, that we may have the strength to turn away from our denial, to wake up to the challenges that face us; that we may open ourselves to taking new steps in thinking and doing, and doing with others in order to become part of a sea change that needs to happen.

**RESPONSE Creator and Redeemer, hear our prayer**

**MS** We pray that we find ways of spiritual renewal, that we may recognize God's Holy Spirit the Renewer of Creation, constantly at work sustaining the life of the universe; that we reject our proprietorial habitus towards nature and the earth; that we may through prayer and searching for the truth, ever trusting in God's love for all of his creation, realign our entire being, mind, body and soul with mother earth and sisters and brothers plants and animals

**RESPONSE Creator and Redeemer, hear our prayer**

.....  
.....

What else do the people of God pray for? .....

**RESPONSE Creator and Redeemer, hear our prayer**

PRAYER OF THE EARTH

MC

All-powerful God, you are present in the whole universe and in the smallest of your creatures.

You embrace with your tenderness all that exists.

Pour out upon us the power of your love, that we may protect life and beauty.

Fill us with peace, that we may live as brothers and sisters, harming no one.

O God of the poor, help us to rescue the abandoned and forgotten of this earth, so precious in your eyes.

Bring healing to our lives, that we may protect the world and not prey on it, that we may sow beauty, not pollution and destruction.

Touch the hearts of those who look only for gain at the expense of the poor and the earth.

Teach us to discover the worth of each thing, to be filled with awe and contemplation, to recognize that we are profoundly united with every creature as we journey towards your infinite light.

We thank you for being with us each day.

Encourage us, we pray, in our struggle for justice, love and peace. **AMEN**

SONG

ER

*With Climate Change, We've Got to Change*

STATEMENTS OF CHANGE *Tying into Quotes / Prayers* MS, YL, AM, LC, MC

*Each participant makes an announcement of 'Good News' in connection with previous quote and prayer.*

- In its final communique the G7 summit in Munich last month stated that the industrial nations will have to take the lead in making fossil fuels a thing of the past. They committed themselves to setting about drastic transformations of their economies to decarbonize. While these are only words, it is the first time it has been stated so clearly by them and also that the industrial nations have admitted that it is they who will have to lead this process.
- At the end of November is the World Climate Summit in Paris. The French Government has made the success of the summit its priority. We want to bring together all Christian churches to organize a prayer vigil for the summit to help focus our prayers and thoughts.
- Pope Francis has published the most significant work of Christian provenance to date with regard to climate change and climate justice. We encourage all of you to get a copy, either online or purchase through VERITAS, read it, get others to read it and get together to study it and think of its implications.
- .....
- *Participants are encouraged to share any items of hopeful news*

**HYMN 574 Here I Am, Lord**

Intro MS

**WORD OF THANKS, etc.** [i.e. Wishes for the new week, pointing out resources, invitation to get involved, Collection at the door....] MS

**CONCLUDING READING** from the Popes encyclical letter 'Laudato Si'

YL

*Beyond the Sun*

243. **At the end**, we will find ourselves face to face with the infinite beauty of God, and be able to read with admiration and happiness the mystery of the universe, which with us will share in unending plenitude. Even now we are journeying towards the Sabbath of eternity, the new Jerusalem, towards our common home in heaven. Jesus says: "I make all things new". Eternal life will be a shared experience of awe, in which each creature, resplendently transfigured, will take its rightful place and have something to give those poor men and women who will have been liberated once and for all.

244. **In the meantime**, we come together to take charge of this home which has been entrusted to us, knowing that all the good which exists here will be taken up into the heavenly feast. In union with all creatures, we journey through this land seeking God, for "if the world has a beginning and if it has been created, we must enquire who gave it this beginning, and who was its Creator". Let us sing as we go. May our struggles and our concern for this planet never take away the joy of our hope.

245. **God, who calls** us to generous commitment and to give him our all, **offers us the light and the strength** needed to continue on our way. In the heart of this world, the Lord of life, who loves us so much, is always present. He does not abandon us, he does not leave us alone, for he has united himself definitely to our earth, and his love constantly impels us to find new ways forward. Praise be to him.

**LORD'S PRAYER** Introduction YL

**FINAL BLESSING**

MS

Deep peace of the running wave to you  
Deep peace of the flowing stream to you  
Deep peace of the quiet earth to you  
Deep peace of the shining stars to you  
Deep peace of the Son of Peace to you.

SONG ER

*Oxygen 21*