

3rd short reading. Colossians 1 vv 15-20

The Son is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation. For in him all things were created: things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities; all things have been created through him and for him. He is before all things, and in him all things hold together. And he is the head of the body, the church; he is the beginning and the firstborn from among the dead, so that in everything he might have the supremacy. For God was pleased to have all his fullness dwell in him, and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether things on earth or things in heaven, by making peace through his blood, shed on the cross.

Readings for Creation Service

St. Mary's Church – 8th February 2026

1st reading - The Creation , by James Weldon Johnson

And God stepped out on space,
And He looked around and said:
I'm lonely— I'll make me a world.

And as far as the eye of God could see
Darkness covered everything,
Blacker than a hundred midnights
Down in a cypress swamp.

Then God smiled,
And the light broke,
And the darkness rolled upon one side,
And the light stood shining on the other,
And God said: *That's good!*

Then God reached out & took the light in His hands,
And God rolled the light around in His hands
Until He made the sun;
And He set that sun a-blazing in the heavens.
And the light that was left from making the sun
God gathered it up in a shining ball
And flung it against the darkness,
Spangling the night with the moon and stars.
Then down between
The darkness and the light
He hurled the world;
And God said: *That's good!*

Then God himself stepped down—
And the sun was on His right hand,
And the moon was on His left;
The stars were clustered about His head,
And the earth was under His feet.
And God walked, and where He trod
His footsteps hollowed the valleys out
And bulged the mountains up.

Then He stopped and looked and saw
That the earth was hot and barren.
So God stepped over to the edge of the world
And He spat out the seven seas—
He batted His eyes, and the lightnings flashed—

He clapped His hands, and the thunders
rolled—
And the waters above the earth came down,
The cooling waters came down.

Then the green grass sprouted,
And the little red flowers blossomed,
The pine tree pointed his finger to the sky,
And the oak spread out his arms,
The lakes cuddled down in the hollows of the
ground,
The rivers ran down to the sea;
And God smiled again,
And the rainbow appeared,
And curled itself around His shoulder.

Then God raised His arm & He waved His hand
Over the sea and over the land,
And He said: *Bring forth! Bring forth!*
And quicker than God could drop His hand,
Fishes and fowls
And beasts and birds
Swam the rivers and the seas,
Roamed the forests and the woods,
And split the air with their wings.
And God said: *That's good!*

Then God walked around,
And God looked around
On all that He had made.
He looked at His sun,
And He looked at His moon,
And He looked at His little stars;
He looked on His world
With all its living things,
And God said: *I'm lonely still.*

Then God sat down—
On the side of a hill where He could think;
By a deep, wide river He sat down;
With His head in His hands,
God thought and thought,
Till He thought: *I'll make me a man!*

Up from the bed of the river
God scooped the clay;
And by the bank of the river
He kneeled Him down;
And there the great God Almighty
Who lit the sun and fixed it in the sky,

Who flung the stars to the most far corner of the
night,
Who rounded the earth in the middle of His
hand;
This Great God,
Like a mammy bending over her baby,
Kneeled down in the dust
Toiling over a lump of clay
Till He shaped it in His own image;
Then into it He blew the breath of life,
And man became a living soul.

Amen.

2nd Reading - A new green dawn.

God wisely chose the colour green – for shade
of forests and grass.

The rice also of the East and the wheat of the
West in youth is green before turning to harvest.

Green is the ocean under cloud-swept skies,
and all this colour softly rests upon human
eyes.

But suddenly the green is fading.

The forests black with scorching fire;

the land eroded, turning to dust;

the lakes lying still and dead with acid rain.

Fish die, birds fall from the sky, and precious
species, plant and beast are gone save in
natural history books.

Lord, teach us to touch your world with more
delicate hands.

Contain our greed, and stir respect, and open
our eyes to see all things as sacred – all things
are yours.

Bring us a new green dawn.

~ L. David Levison.