

## Opening worship for JPIT Conference

### Introduction

Coming to this Conference today feels like gathering at an oasis of hope. We're here to drink deep from the waters; to be encouraged by one another and by the limitless possibilities of God's creative and resurrecting power.

I trust that we will go home in the power of the Spirit  
to live and work to God's praise and glory.

But first, we must start in a place of repentance -  
facing up to the reality of what already is -  
and what maybe, if we do not faithfully renew and rebel.

*(Slide 1)* In our visual prayers we're going to use art work made for this Conference by Michaela Youngson. The six glass discs together form an installation called "Acts of Uncreation" in an echo of the first creation story in Genesis. They remind us of the damage being done to our world and our life together.

### Prayers

Use draft slide show whilst **StF 751 Kyrie Eleison** is played on keyboard in the background. Slides should be timed so that there are three images per whole Kyrie, with us all joining in the singing after each three images (ie Kyrie is played through 4 times altogether)

*Kyrie continues to be played softly in background*

(leader) - slide of snowdrops  
Creator God  
when we think of the beauty of all that you have made  
our adoring hearts are scared and sad;  
So much already lost...  
And how bad will it get?  
Through your Spirit  
save us from the futility of despair.  
Lead us to true repentance,  
the hope of renewal  
and the energy of rebellion.  
Show us what is ours to do  
and help us work together to do your will. **Amen**

### Scripture Readings

In the Old Testament, when God's people are scared and sad, the Prophets and visionaries call the people to repentance and lay before them a vision of God's promised future. Hear are some snapshots of these visions:

Reader 1 (Psalmist)  
Steadfast love and faithfulness will meet;  
righteousness and peace will kiss each other  
faithfulness will spring up from the ground  
and righteousness will look down from the sky

Reader 2 (Jeremiah)  
their life shall become like a watered garden,  
and they shall never languish again.

Reader 1 (Zechariah)

Old men and old women shall again sit in the streets of Jerusalem, each with staff in hand because of their great age And the streets of the city shall be full of boys and girls playing in its streets

Reader 2 (Amos)

They shall rebuild the ruined cities and inhabit them;  
they shall plant vineyards and drink their wine,  
and they shall make gardens and eat their fruit

Reader 1 (Isaiah)

The wolf shall live with the lamb,  
the leopard shall lie down with the kid,  
the calf and the lion and the fatling together  
and a little child shall lead them

Leader:

The resurrection of Jesus from the dead gives us new reason to put our faith in God's promised future and to work towards its fulfilment.

In continuation with the Scriptural tradition, I invited people to dream their own dreams and so to help write a new version of the song "One Day" by Andrew Graystone, which any of you who have been to the Greenbelt Festival may recognise. Here it is!

### **Song**

*One day, One day, perhaps it will be Sunday  
One day we will live in peace and a little child will lead them*

*(repeat with kazoo's, whistling etc)*

One day, PIPs will be for growing apples trees; assessors will come round to make your tea and hoops will be for hula-ing and not jumping through

One day loan sharks will climb sycamore trees and pay their clients all their money back with interest...

One day huff & puff economies will not tell porkies and the wolf will slink away from our doors

One day, someone will turn out the light in the last Food Bank because everyone will have enough to eat and we will all shout HOORAY!

### *Chorus*

One day the only people sleeping rough will be stargazers because everyone will have a place to call home

One day the earth will stop revolving around the rich and will joyfully loop the loop, encircling life for all

One day politicians will listen before they speak and the wisdom of children will be universally prized

One day shops will only be sweaty because the sun's shining a bit too much and all trade will be fair trade

### *Chorus*

One day burkhas and turbans, skull caps and tweed caps will be unremarkable unless they are a particularly bright shade of fuschia

One day the hostile environment will be history with shaking fists becoming shaken hands

One day trolls will only be found in fairy tales and people will be kind to each other face to face and online

One day it will only matter that we love and are loved, not who we love

### *Chorus*

One day Jeremy Clarkson will proclaim the bicycle preferable to the internal combustion engine and politicians will take the bus (which will be electric)

One day there will be world championships in darning and everyone will know how to make a patch and sew on a button

One day both those who don't have enough and those who have far too much will be liberated by having just what they need

One day shoppers will calculate the cost to the earth as well as the cost to their purse

*Chorus*



**Renewal and Rebellion**  
Faith, Economy and Climate