23rd Sunday Ordinary time Year C September 4th / First Sunday Season of Creation / Social Justice Week

**Welcome before Mass**: (Commentator)

Offering the prayer of the faithful is a priestly task. The whole assembly, by their baptism, are called as priests to pray for the needs of the world.

This is what we are doing when we pray the prayer of the faithful.

Tēnā Koutou Katoa / Good morning and welcome. We are asked this morning, ‘who traced out the heavens, and who can give God counsel?’ We come together then, in a spirit of humility, knowing that we can do nothing without God, and yet, also, in a spirit of hospitality and warm welcome, knowing that it is God’s abundant love that draws us here. We gather today, accepting the duty of our baptism, to pray together as one people for our needs, and for the needs of the world. Today is the 23rd Sunday of Ordinary time, the beginning of Social Justice Week, and the first week in the Season of Creation. Let’s take a moment’s silence. (20 seconds - stay at microphone). Haere mai ki te ………………………………… (parish name). You are very welcome here today.

**Prayer of the Faithful**

**For the Church** – that, heeding the words of Pope Francis, we strive to reach out to family, friends and neighbours, and ‘create a new dialogue about how we are shaping the planet’.

(Silence) **Reader:** E te Ariki All: whakarongo mai rā ki a mātou

**For leaders of nations –** that they develop a deep respect for the riches of the earth, accepting their responsibility of care for creation and adopting a mandate to use Earth’s resources sustainably.

(Silence) **Reader:** E te Ariki All: whakarongo mai rā ki a mātou

**For people sold or tricked into slavery –** that there be an end to human trafficking and that all who have been sold into sexual or domestic labour, or any other form of slavery, be freed.

(Silence) **Reader:** E te Ariki All: whakarongo mai rā ki a mātou

**For people who suffer from racial discrimination or prejudice** - that a spirit of compassion and humility will awaken in us, and in all people, which can build bonds of love and fellowship between all peoples.

(Silence) **Reader:** E te Ariki All: whakarongo mai rā ki a mātou

**For species threatened with extinction by climate change** – that conservation efforts be intensified and the planet’s biodiversity protected.

(Silence) **Reader:** E te Ariki All: whakarongo mai rā ki a mātou

**For our local community of … (Please discern the needs of your locality and compose a petition.) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

(Silence) **Reader:** E te Ariki All: whakarongo mai rā ki a mātou

**Concluding Prayer** (Priest)

God of the ages, you call the Church to keep watch in the world and to discern the signs of the times. Grant us the wisdom which your Spirit bestows, that with courage we may proclaim your prophetic word and complete the work you have set before us. We make this prayer through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God for ever and ever. ***AMEN***