

MORNING PRAYER

GATHERING IN GOD'S NAME

Acknowledgement of country. This, or some other form of acknowledgment that is locally relevant, may be used. If the accepted name of the first nation people is known then it may be used accordingly.

We acknowledge the first nation people as the traditional custodians of the land upon, and sky beneath, which we gather today, to hear Scriptures, lament, pray and give thanks.

The first nation people are stewards on behalf of the almighty creator.

We would also like to pay our respects to the first nation elders past, present and future.

We gather in the name of the Triune God, Creator, Redeemer, and Sustainer of the Earth and all its species.

Sentence of the day for the Season of Creation

You are worthy, our Lord and God, to receive glory and honour and power, for you created all things, and by your will they existed and were created. Revelation 4:11

Praise be to the Holy Trinity! God is sound and life, Creator of the Universe, source of life of all, whom the angels sing: wondrous light of all mysteries known or unknown to humankind and life that lives in all.

(Hildegard of Bingen 13th. Century)

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.

Hymn

Friends in Christ, we come together to meet with God, and to take our part in the building up of his Church.

We will lift up our hearts in thanks and praise, hear from God's holy word, lament and pray for this created world, for ourselves and for all non-human life.

In this Season of Creation we focus upon forests, the land, the wilderness and rivers as we reflect upon God's continuing gift of creation and our response to it.

The Bible tells us to approach God confidently, through our Lord Jesus Christ. As we do so, we must confess our sins, seeking forgiveness through God's boundless goodness and mercy.

To the Lord our God belong mercy and forgiveness, though we have rebelled against him, and have not obeyed the voice of the Lord our God by following his laws which he set before us.

Daniel 9: 9-10

After silence we continue with a confession

Living God,

We are people of unanswered loss

As people displaced, as people evicted, as people migrated.

This island is a land of loss

Seas overfished, rivers polluted, forests cleared, land urbanised.

Our lament is unheard, unvoiced, unrequited.

We have sinned in thought, word and deed.

Our actions are hollow, our intentions ill-directed

Without your creating and saving grace, O God, we wander and stumble.

Re-join us again, O healing Spirit, into communion with you and all creation.

We acknowledge the identity of all that is living and non-living.

Grant us the new life shown by your Son, our Saviour Jesus Christ

With the freedom to be at one with you.

If anyone sins, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous. He is the perfect offering for our sins, and not for ours only, but also for the sins of the whole world.

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**

The first reading from the Old Testament or as appointed.

The appointed Psalm is read.

Canticle: Bless the Lord, all created things

Rock and sand plain, bless the Lord:
salt lake and red earth,

praise and glorify God for ever.

Rising moon and circling stars, bless the Lord:
deep night, bright dawn and subtle sunset,

praise and glorify God for ever.

Morning frost and midday heat, bless the Lord:
desert wind, thunderstorm and lightning strike,

praise and glorify God for ever.

Sweet spring and secret well, bless the Lord:
cloudburst and gentle rain,

praise and glorify God for ever.

Mallee and sandalwood, wattle and cypress, bless the Lord:
spiny shrubs and spiky grasses,

praise and glorify God for ever.

Ant and spider, bless the Lord:
grubs and flies, moths and beetles,

praise and glorify God for ever.

Eagle and emu, hawk and crow, bless the Lord:
darting birds with flashing wings,

praise and glorify God for ever.

Frog and snake and lizard, bless the Lord:
pygmy possum and kangaroo,

praise and glorify God for ever.

Pilgrim and scholar, artist and dreamer, bless the Lord:
hermit and mystic, worker and traveller,

praise and glorify God for ever.

Let us bless the Trinity of mercy and grace,
Eternal Wisdom, Living Word and Holy Spirit:

let us praise and glorify God for ever.

© Anglican Church of Australia Trust Corporation. Used by permission

Readings from the New Testament

The sermon or address is preached here or later.

Congregational reflection may follow.

Affirmation of Faith

Let us affirm our faith together.

We believe that God creates all things, renews all things and celebrates all things.

We believe Earth is a sanctuary, a sacred planet filled with God's presence, a home for us to share with our kin.

We believe that God became flesh and blood, became a piece of Earth, a human being called Jesus Christ, who lived and breathed and spoke among us, suffered and died on a cross for all human beings and for all creation.

We believe that the risen Jesus is the Christ at the core of creation, reconciling all things to God, renewing all creation and filling the cosmos.

We believe the Holy Spirit renews life in creation, groans in empathy with a suffering creation and waits with us for the rebirth of creation.

We believe that with Christ we will rise and with Christ we will celebrate a new creation.

*adopted from Forest Sunday,
seasonofcreation.com/wp-content/uploads/2010/02/liturgy-forest-sunday-1.pdf*

Hymn

THE MINISTRY OF PRAYER

The minister says

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us join together in the prayer which Jesus gave us.

**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.
Lead us not into temptation
but deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours
now and for ever. Amen.**

Be exalted, Lord, above the heavens,

let your glory cover the earth.

Keep this land under your care,

and guide us in justice and truth.

Let your way be known on earth,

your saving power through all creation.

Send out your light and your truth,

that all may tell of your saving works.

Have mercy upon all life that is exploited.

Hear the cry of all in need.

Hear our prayers, O Lord,

for we put our trust in you.

The Collect of the Day as designated for the theme of the day.

Intercessions may take on a variety of formats that suit the theme of the day or circumstance of the worshipping congregation. Or, the following may be used with appropriate periods of silence.

Caring God we thank you for your gifts in creation:

for our world

the heavens tell of your glory.

for our land, its beauty and resources,

for the rich heritage we enjoy.

We pray:

for those who make decisions about the resources of the earth,

that we may use your gifts responsibly.

for those who work on the land and sea, in city and in industry,

that all may enjoy the fruits of their labours and marvel at your creation;

for artists, scientists and visionaries,

that through their work we may see creation afresh.

We thank you for giving us life;

for all who enrich our experience.

We pray:

for all who through their own or others' actions are deprived of fulness of life,

for prisoners, refugees, the disabled, and all who are sick;

for those in politics, medical sciences, social and relief work, and for your Church,

for all who seek to bring life to others.

We thank you that you have called us to celebrate your creation.

Give us reverence for life in your world.

We thank you for your redeeming love;

may your word and sacrament strengthen us to love as you love us.

God, Creator, bring us new life,

Jesus, Redeemer, renew us.

Holy Spirit, strengthen and guide us.

The Intercessions conclude with this Creation Prayer

Jesus Christ, teach us to empathise with Earth.

Make our spirits sensitive to the cries of creation, cries for justice from the hills to the seas.

Jesus Christ, make our faith sensitive to the groans of the Spirit, groans from the winds, the dust and the smoke.

Jesus Christ, make our souls sensitive to the songs of our kin, songs of celebration from the oceans, the land and the air. Christ, teach us to care. Amen.

adopted from Forest Sunday, Season of Creation

THE SENDING OUT OF GOD'S PEOPLE

Corporate acts of commitment may take place here. These may include watching a media presentation of ecological action by Christians or people of other faiths; the handing out of seeds or seedlings to members of the congregation; or a planting ceremony in a designated place.

Lord, in the light of the morning, its colour, beauty and joy:

We see your constancy.

In the dusty heat of midday, when light shimmers and the world is still:

We feel your constancy.

In the rhythm of the seasons, through rain and frost, sun and shade:

We know your constancy.

Your hand reshaping, reforming, reinvigorating our world; each day different:

Brings new hope each morning.

We commit this day to you.

You give us the freedom to make of it what we will,

Your constancy, and your love for us are all we need today. Amen.

adapted from There was a Garden; Meditations and Prayers

Eddie Askew and Jenny Hawke

TLM Trading Limited 2011

Hymn

The following blessing may be said, or sung to tune setting Together In Song 776 (ii) or other.

May the Lord bless us and keep us;

May the Lord make his face to shine upon us, and be gracious to us.

May the Lord lift up his countenance upon us, and give us peace.

Amen

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord:

In the name of Christ. Amen

Notes:

The Season of Creation is celebrated in September during the four Sundays before St Francis Day on October 4th. The readings roughly follow the three year cycle of the Revised Common Lectionary where the focus is on the years of Matthew, Mark and Luke. The sequence of readings in each series follows a broad structure of creation, alienation, passion and new creation.

1. *The series for Year A concentrates on those texts where the Spirit is breathing life into creation, suffering with creation and renewing creation.*

The four themes are:

Creation 1 Forests

Creation 2 Land

Creation 3 Wilderness / the Outback

Creation 4 Rivers

The series for Year B concentrates on those texts where the Word is the impulse that summons forth creation, evokes praise from creation, and stirs life in creation.

The four themes are:

Creation 1 Earth

Creation 2 Humanity

Creation 3 Sky

Creation 4 Mountains

The series for Year C concentrates on those texts where the Wisdom is the designing force behind creation and the impulse that enables parts of creation to fulfil their roles.

The four themes are:

Creation 1 Oceans

Creation 2 Fauna

Creation 3 Storm

Creation 4 Cosmos

from Norman Habel

Season of Creation: A Preaching Commentary

2. *Possible hymns for creation themes can be found in the index of the Harmony Edition of Together in Song;*

Creation p 1042

Ecology p. 1044

Environment p. 1044

Gifts in Creation p. 1050

Harvest p. 1052