



# SEASON OF CREATION

## **Additional Resources for Creation Care liturgies**

*The following liturgical resources may be useful in preparing worship services during the Season of Creation, or for creation-themed worship throughout the year. As always, clergy and parishes should seek permission from their bishop prior to using alternative liturgical materials.*

### **Book of Alternative Services Resources**

See BAS pp. 396-397 (Rogation Days and Harvest Thanksgiving) for suggested collects and prayers that may be helpful in celebrating creation.

### **Collect for Creation**

God of unchangeable power, when you fashioned the world the morning stars sang together and the host of heaven shouted for joy; open our eyes to the wonders of creation and teach us to see all things for good, to the honor of your glorious name; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

- *From A New Zealand Prayer Book, p. 569*

### **Prayer of Intercession: God in Creation (Prayers of the People)**

Let us pray to God,  
that he will bring to fruition all that he desires for his creation.

You have created the universe by your eternal Word,  
and have blessed humankind in making us stewards of the earth.

We pray for your world,  
that we may share and conserve its resources,  
and live in reverence for the creation  
and in harmony with one another.

Father, Lord of creation,  
**in your mercy, hear us.**

You have given the human race a rich land,  
a land of streams and springs,  
wheat and barley,  
vines and oil and honey.

We have made by sin a world of suffering and sorrow.  
We pray for those who bear the weight of affliction,  
that they may come to share the life of wholeness and plenty.  
Father, Lord of creation,  
**in your mercy, hear us.**

In Christ you call us to a new way of life,  
loving our neighbours before ourselves.  
Help us to treat with care and respect the world as it is  
as we live in hope and anticipation of the world as it will be  
when your kingdom comes and your will is done.  
Thank you for those, living and departed,  
who have shown a true respect for your creation ...  
Help us to follow in their footsteps,  
until, with them, we see you face to face,  
where all is made new in Christ our Lord.

Merciful Father,  
**accept these prayers  
for the sake of your Son  
our Saviour Jesus Christ.  
Amen.**

— from ***New Patterns for Worship*** © The Archbishops' Council 2002. From the Church of England's ***Common Worship*** website.

### **Prayers of the People to Care for Creation**

Creator God, teach us to see you  
in the beauty of the universe,  
for all things speak of you.  
Awaken our praise and thankfulness  
for everything that you have made.  
Give us the grace to perceive that we are connected  
to everything that is. *Silence*  
In gratitude let us pray to the Lord  
**We give you thanks, O God.**

God whom we love, we stand before you with open and humble hearts.  
In our imagination, allow us to see and hear and feel  
the beautiful expressions of the earth, that speak to each of us -  
Mountains, rivers, prairie, oceans,  
Forest, meadows, trees, flowers. *Silence*  
In gratitude let us pray to the Lord  
**We give you thanks, O God.**

God of love, show us our place in this world,  
as kin to all the non-human creatures with whom we share the earth.  
They came forth from your hand;  
they are yours, filled with your presence and your tender love.  
and not one of them is forgotten in your sight. *Silence*  
In gratitude let us pray to the Lord  
**We give you thanks, O God.**

Saving God, we give thanks for all human beings on the earth,  
Created from dust, yet crowned with glory,  
Those we know and those who are strangers;  
Those near to us and those far away;  
All of us beautiful, all of us flawed. *Silence*  
In gratitude let us pray to the Lord  
**We give you thanks, O God.**

God of abundance, we give thanks for the sun, for water, for soil, for air,  
On which our lives depend moment by moment.  
In silence we are aware of our frailty, our complete dependence  
On our beloved Mother Earth who nurtures us  
and sustains our every breath. *Silence*  
In gratitude let us pray to the Lord  
**We give you thanks, O God**

Creator God, we enjoy the abundant fruits of the earth,  
Yet, we acknowledge that we in the developed world,  
have often wasted the gifts of the earth, taking more than our share,  
leaving our sisters and brothers in other places in poverty and need.  
Renew our minds and transform us into servants of the earth,  
so that her richness and bounty will sustain, not only us,  
but generations to come after us.  
In gratitude let us pray to the Lord  
**We give you thanks, O God.**

- *Written by Karen Turner for the Diocese of Toronto, Earth Sunday 2018*

## Confessions

### *Introduction to confession:*

Let us confess our forgetfulness of the needs of the poor, and repent of the ways in which we waste the resources of the world.

- *“Let All Things Their Creator Bless”*: Liturgy for Use During the Season of Creationtide, Diocese of Guilford, p. 11

### *Confession:*

We confess our sin, and the sins of our society, in the misuse of God’s creation. God our Father, we are sorry for the times when we have used your gifts carelessly, and acted ungratefully. Hear our prayer, and in your mercy:

**All forgive us and help us.**

We enjoy the fruits of the harvest, but sometimes forget that you have given them to us. Father, in your mercy:

**All forgive us and help us.**

We belong to a people who are full and satisfied, but ignore the cry of the hungry. Father, in your mercy:

**All forgive us and help us.**

We are thoughtless, and do not care enough for the world you have made. Father, in your mercy:

**All forgive us and help us.**

We store up goods for ourselves alone, as if there were no God and no heaven. Father, in your mercy:

**All forgive us and help us.**

- *“Let All Things Their Creator Bless”*: Liturgy for Use During the Season of Creationtide, Diocese of Guilford, pp. 14-15.

## Introduction to peace

You shall go out in joy and be led back in peace; the mountains and the hills before you shall burst into song, and all the trees of the field shall clap their hands.

- *“Let All Things Their Creator Bless”*: Liturgy for Use During the Season of Creationtide, Diocese of Guilford, p. 26

## Presentation of gifts

See <https://www.tcdsb.org/news/othernews/2018/pages/earthday.aspx>

## Blessing

God the Father, who created the world, give you grace to be wise stewards of his creation.

**All Amen**

God the Son, who redeemed the world, inspire you to go out as labourers into his harvest.

**All Amen**

God the Holy Spirit, whose breath fills the whole creation, help you to bear his fruits of love, joy and peace

**All Amen**

and the blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you and remain with you always.

**All Amen.**

- *“Let All Things Their Creator Bless”*: Liturgy for Use During the Season of Creationtide, Diocese of Guilford, p. 37

## Dismissal

Tend the earth, care for God’s good creation, and bring forth the fruits of righteousness. Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

**All In the name of Christ. Amen.**

- *“Let All Things Their Creator Bless”*: Liturgy for Use During the Season of Creationtide, Diocese of Guilford, pp. 38-39

## Other Prayers - Prayer of Lament: Water

*(This can be read antiphonally, alternating between two readers, with the congregation joining in the responses in bold print.)*

Creator and Life-giver, You water the furrows of the earth abundantly, softening it with showers, and blessing its growth,  
And we clear-cut the forests and till the edges of the fields, until the soil spills into the streams and pesticides and manure make foul the rivers.

O Source of Living Water, hear our cry,  
**Cleanse and renew us and all creation.**

In every part of the earth You have set humans to tend and steward the land as a goodly heritage,  
And the First Peoples of this land are poisoned with mercury from pulp mills and cannot safely drink the water in their own homes.

O Source of Living Water, hear our cry,  
**Cleanse and renew us and all creation.**

You make springs to gush forth in the valleys; they flow between the hills, giving drink to every creature,  
And we span those streams with pipelines that rupture and leak, oozing oil and bitumen, poisoning the fish and the birds of the air.

O Source of Living Water, hear our cry,  
**Cleanse and renew us and all creation.**

You visit the earth and water it, soaking the subsoil to feed the plants and to fill our wells,  
And we sell off that water for a pittance, to be bottled in plastic and sold back to the thirsty at a profit, while the crops wither in the fields.

O Source of Living Water, hear our cry,  
**Cleanse and renew us and all creation.**

You opened rocks in the desert to bring water to Your thirsty people,  
And we fracture rocks for gases that set tap water aflame.

O Source of Living Water, hear our cry,  
**Cleanse and renew us and all creation.**

You gather the deeps into storehouses, channeling the fresh waters of Turtle Island into the Great Lakes,  
And we bury radioactive waste by their shores and pollute them with our industries.

O Source of Living Water, hear our cry,  
**Cleanse and renew us and all creation.**

You lap the shores of the continents with the wide oceans, filled with living creatures great and small,  
And we choke them with our refuse and suffocate them with our waste.

O Source of Living Water, hear our cry,  
**Cleanse and renew us and all creation.**

Have mercy on us, forgive us, and make us new.

O Source of Living Water, hear our cry,  
**Cleanse and renew us and all creation.**

- *Written by Elin Goulden for the Diocese of Toronto, Keepers of the Water Vigil 2017.*