

What a Wildly Wonderful World!

Prayer Suggestions

Opening Greeting & Prayer

This is the day that the Lord has made.

Let us rejoice and be glad in it.

This is the world that the Lord has made.

Let us receive it with thanks, and respect it with care.

Lord God, you lovingly spoke all creation into existence

And shaped each one of us within our mother's womb;

As we gather to worship you today,

Fill our hearts with wonder and our mouths with praise

At the wildly wonderful world you have made.

In the name of Jesus, by whom and for whom all things were created.

Amen.

Entering God's House

All creation is the dwelling of God's Spirit,

As we worship our Creator, the creation worships too.

As we enter this building let us take with us

the sights and sounds, the scents and taste and feel of God's world.

Let us worship the Lord with all our senses,

Let us worship the Lord with the company of creation.

Creation Collect

Almighty God,

whose Spirit hovered over the waters

bringing order out of chaos,

and whose love for all living things is everlasting:

help us to live in such a way

that we care for your creation,

marvel at its beauty,

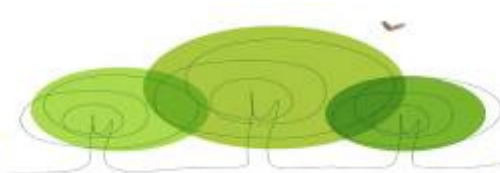
and share its resources;

to the glory of your Son Jesus Christ

through whom and for whom all things were created.

Amen.

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Litany of Praise & Prayer

Based on Colossians 1:15-20 with Romans 8:18-22, Philippians 2:5-11, Ephesians 1:9-10, Revelation 21:5. This should be narrated with feeling and with pace. It will help if the congregation has all the words, not simply the responses. This can either be used instead of 'usual' intercessions or with the congregation – ideally including children – writing their own prayers about environmental matters of local concern – for instance using the all-age prayer-leaf suggestion.

Jesus, Lord of the Earth

By you all things were created

All creeping things, all flying things,
All living things, all dying things,
The highest hills, the deepest seas,
The strongest gale, the slightest breeze,
The blossom on a cherry tree,
A spinning spider's artistry,
The smell of dry earth after rain,
Each cell within a human brain,
Each fallen leaf, each towering pine,
Reveals your intricate design.
Creator Lord, we stand amazed,
And for your earth, we give you praise:

Jesus, Lord of the Earth

For you all things were created

The smoothest pebble on the shore,
Detritus on the forest floor,
The undiscovered depths of space,
The wrinkles on a baby's face;
Each sparrow and each human hair
Is numbered and is in your care,
All iron and oil and diamonds too,
Whilst used by us, belong to you,
Forgive us Lord, for we forget,
All things are yours, and yet,
Provider Lord, we stand amazed,
And with your earth, we give you praise:

Jesus, Lord of the Earth

In you all things now hold together

All of earth's greatest mysteries,
And all our personal histories,
Each planet and each grain of sand,
You hold them in your nail-scarred hands,



You feed the birds and clothe the flowers,
You warm the soil and send the showers,
You sound the rhythms of the earth,
Of tides and seasons, death and birth,
It is for you creation sings,
The head, the centre of all things,
Sustainer Lord, we stand amazed,
And with your earth, we give you praise:

Jesus, Lord of the earth
In you all things are made new

Lord God before all time began,
Yet you became a Son of Man,
You stepped into the world you made,
A world once good, now spoilt, decayed,
As Son of Man your death reversed
The chaos of creation's curse,
The earth itself quaked on that day,
Released from bondage to decay,
All things are reconciled to you,
Creation's hope is born anew.
Redeemer Lord, we stand amazed
And with your earth, we give you praise.

Jesus, Lord of the earth
**By you all things were created,
For you all things were created,
In you all things now hold together,
In you all things are made new.
And all creation cries Amen!**

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All-age Prayers

Before the Service: Cut out leaf shapes on paper for everybody to use during the prayers & ensure there are enough pencils / pens for everyone, and blu-tack or similar to attach them. Free printable templates for leaf-shapes can be found at:
<http://www.kinderart.com/kindercolor/ashleaf.htm>
<http://www.kinderart.com/kindercolor/oakleaf.htm>
<http://www.kinderart.com/kindercolor/mapleleaf.htm>

If you want to make a large cardboard tree, you could project the simple outline from the link below onto a large sheet of cardboard, and then colour it in using paint:
http://www.firstpalette.com/tool_box/printables/tree2.pdf

During the Service: Hand out the leaf-shaped pieces of paper to everybody with



pens / pencils. You could get the children to help do this. Whilst a song is being sung invite people to prayerfully write one-word or one-sentence prayers for creation (they could be 'thank you', 'sorry' or 'please' type prayers) on their leaves and bring them up to stick on the front.

- If you are using the all-age service order they can be stuck on the front of the creation tableau using blu-tack.
- You could have a large cardboard tree outline at the front, and encourage people to stick their prayers on the tree.

Prayer of Intercession

A litany that the church world-wide would take better care of creation, written by Heather Robinson-Heyd and originally used in A Rocha's 'People and Wildlife' pack in 1999. Heather has worked with A Rocha Canada and volunteered with A Rocha UK. This prayer can be used responsively, or read by two leaders.

"The earth is the Lord's and everything in it, the world, and all who live in it; for he founded it upon the seas and established it upon the waters." [Psalm 24:1-2](#)

**We belong to you as part of your creation.
Thank you for our dependence on you,
and on the rest of your creation for our life.**

"To the Lord your God belongs the heavens, even the highest heavens, the earth and everything in it". [Deuteronomy 10:14](#)

**Open our eyes and hearts Lord,
so that we may understand and care for earth, sea and sky.**

God blessed them and said to them, "Be fruitful and increase in number; fill the earth and subdue it. Rule over the fish of the seas and the birds of the air and over every living creature that moves on the ground." [Genesis 1:28](#)

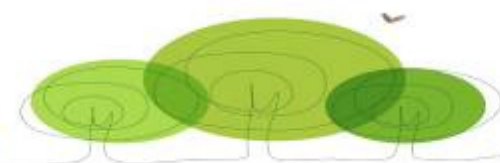
**Forgive us Lord for often exploiting your creation,
for failing to rule with love and wisdom.**

"Woe to you who add house to house and join field to field till no space is left and you live alone in the land." [Isaiah 5:8](#)

**Lord, please help us heal the damage we have done to your creation
so that we may be reconciled to you.**

"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." [Colossians 1:19-20](#)

Help us to protect the biodiversity of the earth



**and to enjoy the works of your creation,
the birds and animals, trees and flowers.**

Lord we pray for endangered species. We ask that you would help scientists to understand the complex problems and be able to take action to save plants and animals in decline.

**Help us to live from the fruitfulness of your creation
in a way that does not wantonly destroy or harm what is yours.**

Help us to seek first your Kingdom and righteousness
so that creation will continue to reflect your majesty and praise.

**Awaken your church to the needs of the natural world.
Inspire us to unite together and care for your creation.**

In the name of our Creator, Amen

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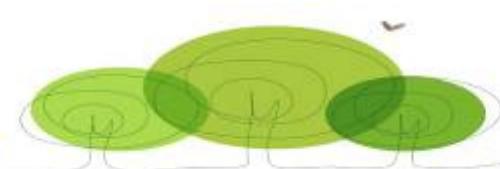
Prayer after Communion

Our God, You have blessed us, and fed us
With your Body and Blood – your very life force.
By your Holy Spirit.
You have come close to us,
And we have come close to you
In this precious feast,
Where Heaven and earth meet,

**And so, with all the realm of Nature –
The growing and creeping things;
The running and leaping things;
The flying and the swimming things,
We proclaim your glory
Which reaches to the heavens
Holding all in sovereign love and care.**

Send us out, nourished and refreshed,
To work in partnership with you,
Bringing your resurrection message
To all the inhabitants of this world,
In earth, and sea and sky.

Give us vision and new commitment
To take up the challenges to which you call us;
That in company with all created things
We may sing the joy, the beauty and the glory



That is Creation's song.
Amen.

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Closing Prayer

As we prepare to leave
and embrace the challenges
of our lives and our world,
let us ask for God's blessing.
May He bless us with wisdom
to care for the earth.
And may the Lord who established the dance of creation,
who marvelled at the lilies of the field,
who transforms chaos to order,
lead us to transform our lives and the Church
to reflect God's glory in creation. **Amen**

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Blessing

The power of God, displayed in creation,
Fill you with grace to serve God in his world;
The peace of God, breathing in every living thing,
Enable you to spread God's peace wherever you go;
The love of God, which fills the universe,
Flow through you that you might reflect his image,
And the blessing of God almighty,
The Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit,
Be among you and remain with you always.
Amen.

Go into God's world in peace to love and serve the Lord
In the name of Christ. Amen.

