

INTRODUCTION

This Sunday Service resource pack includes a fully-developed order of service, mainly for churches following the liturgical tradition, as well as a number of written prayers for those churches in a wide variety of traditions and conventions. In an accompanying document, there is a hymn and worship song list for your reference and consideration.

We recognize that different church traditions have varied Sunday service conventions and orders, so the included resources are diverse. We encourage you to incorporate some of the following prayers, confessions, litanies, etc., into your own order of service as you deem appropriate.

A COMMUNION SERVICE CELEBRATING GOD'S CREATION

(An order of service for churches in the liturgical tradition)

THE GATHERING

The Greeting

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Sentence of Scripture

"Sing to the Lord a new song, sing to the Lord all the earth. Sing to the Lord, praise his name, proclaim his salvation day after day."
(PSALM 96.1-2)

Opening Hymn / Song

Choose one or two of the following. See list of suggested hymns & songs for details.

- Lord of All Creation (God of Wonders)
- Over the Mountains and the Seas
- Praise to the Lord, the Almighty, the King of Creation

Prayers of Penitence

In Jeremiah 12:4 we read, "How long will the land lie parched and the grass in every field be withered? Because those who live in it are wicked, the animals and birds have perished. Moreover, the people are saying, 'He will not see what happens to us.'" Let us call to mind our sin against the beauty and integrity of God's precious creation.

Please repeat the phrases 'Lord have mercy' and 'Christ have mercy' each time they are spoken.

Either:

Creator God, you made this earth and all its creatures to sing your praises. We confess that our overuse of resources and our destruction of habitats is turning creation's joyful music into the sound of mourning and the echo of silence.

Lord have mercy.

Lord have mercy.

Sustainer God, you uphold and cherish your world, and you call us to bear your image in tending and conserving the garden of creation. We confess that we have neglected your call, and failed to reflect your image in our care for your world.

Christ have mercy.

Christ have mercy.

Redeemer God, you sent your only Son to die and rise again, that all creation might be set free from its bondage to decay and all things might be made new in Christ. We confess that we have kept your good news to ourselves and failed to speak and live its truth for all your creatures.

Lord have mercy.

Lord have mercy.

Or (from 'Common Worship: Times & Seasons'):

You delight in creation, its colour and diversity;
Yet we have misused the earth
And plundered its resources for our own selfish ends.
Lord have mercy.

Lord have mercy.

You have brought order out of chaos,
Light in darkness, good out of evil,
But we have preferred darkness
In words and deeds which dishonour God's holy name.

Christ have mercy.
Christ have mercy.

You have showered us with blessings,
But we have been grudging towards others
And lacking in generosity in word and deed.
Lord have mercy.
Lord have mercy.

Absolution

Almighty God who renews the face of the earth, cleanse you from the pollution of your sins, create in you a new heart, and renew your joy in serving him in his world.

Songs of Worship

Choose from the following. See list of suggested hymns & songs for details.

- Who's the King of the Jungle?
- Creation Sings the Father's Song
- Who Paints the Skies?
- You Spread Out the Skies (Wonderful Maker)
- You are the Lord of all Creation
(or sung before communion)
- Great Designer, Master Builder

Collect for Creation Time

Either (from the New Zealand Prayer Book):

God of all the earth,
you have given us the heritage
of this good and fertile land;
grant that we may so respect and use it
that others may thank us
for what we leave to them;
through Jesus, the Christ,
who is alive with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God now and for ever.
Amen.

Or:

Lord of creation,
Your world reveals your glory,
Grant us eyes to see your glory in all that you have made,
from the beauty of a sunset to the pattern of a snowflake.
Give us minds to grasp something of your purposes in creation
and the humility to take our place as co-workers
serving you in your garden.

Give us hearts to love you in loving all your works,
and tenderness in nurturing life in all its fullness.
Through Jesus Christ,
who is alive with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God now and for ever.
Amen.

Or (from Common Worship – alternative Harvest collect):

Creator God,
you made the goodness of the land,
the riches of the sea
and the rhythm of the seasons;
as we thank you for the harvest,
may we cherish and respect
this planet and its peoples,
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

Readings: depending on which sermon is chosen.

A Gospel reading should usually be included in a communion service.

Sermon: see the accompanying sermon guides and suggestions.

Responsive Hymn / Song: see list of suggested hymns and songs for details.

- O Lord, the Clouds are Gathering (with extra words) or
- I, the Lord of Sea and Sky

Creed: either The Nicene Creed, or the following:

(from 'Common Worship: Creeds and Authorised Affirmations of Faith)

Do you believe and trust in God the Father,
source of all being and life,
the one for whom we exist?

We believe and trust in him.

Do you believe and trust in God the Son,
who took our human nature,
died for us and rose again?

We believe and trust in him.

Do you believe and trust in God the Holy Spirit,
who gives life to the people of God
and makes Christ known in the world?

We believe and trust in him.

This is the faith of the Church.

This is our faith.

**We believe and trust in one God,
Father, Son and Holy Spirit.
Amen.**

Prayers of Intercession: See p. 7.

If the all-age prayer ideas are used, then these prayers should accompany the song after the sermon and either replace or precede the creed.

THE LITURGY OF THE SACRAMENT

The Peace

“For God was pleased to have all his fullness dwell in Christ Jesus 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 1:19-21)

The peace of the Lord be always with you
and also with you.

These words may be added:

Let us offer one another a sign of peace.

All may exchange a sign of peace.

Hymn / Song: One of the following. See list of suggested hymns & songs for details.

- You are the Lord of all Creation (including communion verse)
- Lord of Creation
- For the Beauty of the Earth

Preparation of the Table

Taking of the Bread & the Wine

Blessed are you, Lord God of all creation:
through your goodness we have this bread to set before you,
which earth has given and human hands have made.
It will become for us the bread of life.

Blessed be God for ever.

Blessed are you, Lord God of all creation:
through your goodness we have this wine to set before you,
fruit of the vine and work of human hands.
It will become for us the cup of salvation.

Blessed be God for ever.

The Eucharistic Prayer

(adapted from Prayer F in Common Worship Rite A)

The Lord is here.

His Spirit is with us.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give thanks and praise.

You are worthy of our thanks and praise,
Lord God of life,
for by the breath of your mouth
you have spoken your word,
and all things have come into being.

You fashioned us in your image
and placed us in the garden of your delight
to tend and keep your creation.
Though we chose the path of rebellion
you did not abandon your people nor your world.

In the sign of the rainbow you drew all creatures into your covenant of grace.

In choosing a people for yourself you placed them in a land of plenty
and furnished them with laws and prophets to guide them
in seeking your reign of justice, mercy and peace.

As we watch for the signs of your kingdom on earth,
we echo the song of the angels in heaven,
evermore praising you and saying:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord,
God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.**

Lord God, you are the most holy one,
enthroned in splendour and light,
yet in the coming of your Son Jesus Christ
you reveal the power of your love
made perfect in human weakness.
Amen. Lord, we believe.

Embracing our createdness,
Jesus showed the way of salvation;
loving to the end,
he gave himself to death for us and for all the world;
dying for all that he had made,

he set us free from the bonds of sin,
and released creation from its bondage to decay.

Amen. Lord, we believe.

On the night before he died
he took bread and gave you thanks;
he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying:
Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you;
do this in remembrance of me.

Amen. Lord, we believe.

In the same way, after supper he took the cup and gave you
thanks;
he gave it to them, saying:
Drink this, all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant
which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins.
Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.

Amen. Lord, we believe.

Therefore, Father, with this bread and this cup
we celebrate the cross on which he died to set us free.
Defying death he rose again
and is alive with you to plead for us and all the world.

Amen. Lord, we believe.

As we recall the one perfect sacrifice of redemption for us and all
the earth,
Father, by your Holy Spirit let these gifts of your creation
be to us the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ;
form us into the likeness of Christ
and make us a perfect offering in your sight.

Amen. Come, Holy Spirit.

Look with favour on your people
and in your mercy hear the cry of our hearts.
Bless the earth,
heal the sick,
let the oppressed go free
and fill your Church with power from on high.

Amen. Come, Holy Spirit.

Gather your people from the ends of the earth
to feast with all your saints at the table in your kingdom,
where the new creation is brought to perfection
in Jesus Christ our Lord;
by whom, and with whom, and in whom,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
all honour and glory be yours, almighty Father,
for ever and ever.

Amen.

The Lord's Prayer

Gathering our prayers and praises into one,
as our Saviour has taught us, so we pray

**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.**

Breaking of the Bread

The president breaks the consecrated bread.

We break this bread to share in Christ's body,
broken for us and all the world.

**Though we are many, we are one body,
because we all share in one bread.**

Giving of Communion

Draw near with faith.
Receive the body of our Lord Jesus Christ
which he gave for you,
and his blood which he shed for you.
Eat and drink
in remembrance that he died for you and all creation,
and feed on him in your hearts
by faith with thanksgiving.

The following, or other suitable words, are used:

The body of Christ, broken for you and for all the world.

The blood of Christ, shed for you and for all the world.

Prayer after Communion

Almighty God,
we thank you for feeding us at the banquet of your Son,
A foretaste of your new creation of peace and justice.
Through Jesus we offer you our souls and bodies
to be a living sacrifice.
Send us out into your world
in the power of your Spirit
to live and work to your praise and glory.
Amen.

Final Hymn / Song: *One of the following. See list of hymns & songs for details.*

- You Shall Go Out With Joy (*with extra verses*)
- O Lord my God (How Great Thou Art)

THE DISMISSAL

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.

*(ADOPTED AND MODIFIED FROM A ROCHA
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MORE SERVICE PRAYER SUGGESTIONS

(for churches in both liturgical and free traditions)

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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Prayer of Confession / Forgiveness

We humans no longer show God's image, all creation suffers.
**We abuse the creation for our Creator, from our neighbour,
and from all that God has made.**
Therefore, let us confess our sins.

God of all creation:
On the first day You made day and night.
Forgive us for taking for granted the dependable patterns of your world.
Open our eyes to see the beauty of the cosmos You created as our home.
On the second day You made the sky.
Forgive us for polluting the air.
Help us see how best to restore and renew your creation.
On the third day You made the seas and plants.
Forgive us for spoiling the seas.
Give us resolve to change our hurtful habits.
On the fourth day You made the sun and moon.
Forgive us for failing to pause in praise of their splendour
Open our lips so that we will sing Your praise.
On the fifth day You made swarms of living creatures.
Forgive us for seeing their value only in terms of serving our interests.
Give us new opportunities to delight in their beauty and diversity.
On the sixth day You made humankind in Your image.
Forgive us for denying dignity to all Your people.
Work through us until all know their worth as Your creatures.
On the seventh day You rested.
Forgive us for failing to take joy in our rest.
Help us enter Your rhythm of rest, even in this day of worship.
Through Christ, our Lord, firstborn of creation. **Amen.**

Words of Affirmation in Response to Confession

Our world, broken and scarred, still belongs to God.
He holds it together and gives us hope.
With the whole creation we wait for the purifying fire of judgment.
For then we will see the Lord face to face.

God will be all in all,
Righteousness and peace will flourish,
Everything will be made anew,
**And every eye will see at last
That our world belongs to God!
Hallelujah! Come, Lord Jesus.**

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 worldwide 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 / Benediction

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.

Or:

As we prepare to leave and embrace the challenges of our lives
and our world;
May God bless us with courage to seek justice, **Amen.**
May God bless us with wisdom to care for our earth, **Amen.**
May God bless us with love for all that He has created, **Amen.**
And may God bless us with patience to wait for the new creation.
Amen.

In the name of God the Father, Maker of heaven and earth,
Of Jesus Christ, His Son, our world's redeemer,
And of the Holy Spirit who fills the earth with life. God now in
peace and be witnesses to hope.

Thanks be to God!

Litany Based on Colossians 1.15-20

*(with Romans 8.18-22, Philipians 2.5-11, Ephesians 1.9-10,
Revelation 21.5)*

This needs to be narrated, by one or more speakers, with feeling
and with pace. It will help if the congregation has all the words, not
simply the responses. It is envisaged that this can either be used
instead of 'usual' intercessions, or in addition, with local people –
ideally including children – writing their own prayers about environ-
mental matters of local concern.

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

By you all things were created

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
For you all things were created

Jesus, Lord of the Earth
In you all things 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 hold together

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
In you all things are made new

PRAYERS & RESPONSES

(with thanks to Marie Birkinshaw for most of these materials)

Call to worship and confession

As we join together for worship, let us come honestly before Almighty God and acknowledge our shortcomings and the way we have compromised our faith. May the Springs of Living Water well up within us, that we might be cleansed and renewed through our inner being. May we be filled afresh with God's love and blessings that we might serve others and the whole of the created order aright. In the name of Christ. **Amen.**

Praise psalm based on Acts 17:16-31

Give praise to the Lord of Glory.
He's a God that's not unknown!
**His glorious love to all
Our Father God has shown.**

He calls us now to worship Him
with pure and generous heart,
**In spirit and in truth,
like Jesus showed us from the start.**

The Lord of Earth and Heaven
does not live in temples grand.
**He who gave breath to all
won't be served by human hand.**

He knows the times of nations.
He sets them on their course.
**So we might reach out to Him,
for the Lord's not far from us.**

Our God divine is greater
than Earth's greatest scheme or plan.
**His image can't be shown in silver,
nor things golden made by man.**

Jesus lives to prove His power,
for Satan's time is spent.
**Before Christ comes in judgement,
We all must hear his call, "Repent!"**

In Christ we live, in Him we move
And in Him we have our being.
**He forms us in His likeness
To make us loving and forgiving.**

So may we be transformed each day
And better reflect His glory.
**And may we tell to all the world
Our Saviour's wondrous story.**

Praise symphony based on Psalm 148

You planets far off within the universe,
You sun and moon that spin in highest heaven,
You stars that shine out God's greatness and his majesty,
Come and join our symphony of praise to the Lord.

You great creatures of the oceans deep,
All you fish that school and swim in swirling seas,
All you who roam the sea bed, leap about and sing,
Come and join our symphony of praise to the Lord.

All weather foul and fair, sound out his power,
You thunder clouds, you lightning, hail and snow,
All you mountains vast, strong hills and valleys steep,
Come and join our symphony of praise to the Lord.

Animals wild and tame, you flying birds,
You trees and plants, all living things that grow,
Ring out in richness and diversity,
Come and join our symphony of praise to the Lord.

All nations, rulers, kings and leaders,
Together old and young exalt His name,
Proclaim God's splendour to the highest heaven,
Come and join our symphony of praise to the Lord.

A NUMBER OF CELTIC PRAYERS ON GOD AND CREATION

The Whole Earth shall cry "Glory!"

Almighty God, Creator:
The morning is Yours, rising into fullness.
The summer is Yours, dipping into autumn.
Eternity is Yours, dipping into time.
The vibrant grasses, the scent of flowers,
the lichen on the rocks, the tang of seaweed,
All are yours.
Gladly we live in this garden of Your creating.

But creation is not enough.
Always in the beauty, the foreshadowing of decay.
The lambs frolicking careless:
so soon to be led off to slaughter.
Nature red and scarred as well as lush and green.
In the garden also: Always the thorn.
Creation is not enough.

Almighty God, Redeemer:

The sap of life in our bones and being is Yours, lifting us to ecstasy.

But always in the beauty:
the tang of sin, in our consciences.
The dry lichen of sins long dead,
but seared upon our minds.
In the garden that is each of us, always the thorn.

Yet all are Yours as we yield them again to You.
Not only our lives that You have given are Yours:
but also our sins that You have taken.
Even our livid rebellions and putrid sins:
You have taken them all away
and nailed them to the Cross!
Our redemption is enough: and we are free.

Holy Spirit, Enliverer:
Breathe on us, fill us with life anew.
In Your new creation, already upon us,
breaking through, groaning and trawling,
but already breaking through, breathe on us.

Till that day when night and autumn vanish:
and lambs grown sheep are no more slaughtered: and even the
thorn shall fade
and the whole earth shall cry "Glory!" at the marriage feast of the
Lamb.
In this new creation, already upon us,
fill us with life anew.

You are admitting us now
into a wonderful communion,
The foretaste of that final feast.
Help us to put on the wedding garment of rejoicing
which is none of our fashioning
but Your gift to us alone.

By the glories of Your creation,
which we did not devise:
by the assurance of Your freeing us,
which we could not accomplish:
by the wind of Your Spirit, eddying down the centuries through
these walls renewed:
whispering through our recaptured oneness, fanning our faith to
flame,
help us to put on the wedding garment.
So shall we go out into the world, new created, new redeemed,
and new enchained together:
to fight for Your Kingdom in our fallen world.

*VERY REVD. LORD GEORGE MACLEOD OF FUINARY,
FOUNDER OF THE IONA COMMUNITY,
FROM "THE WHOLE EARTH SHALL CRY GLORY", WILD GOOSE PUBLI-
CATIONS, 1985 © IONA COMMUNITY*

Prayer of Columba – About Islands, the Sea and Creation

Delightful it is, to stand on the peak of a rock, in the bosom of the isle, gazing on the face of the sea.

I hear the heaving waves chanting a tune to God in heaven; I see their glittering surf.

I see the golden beaches, their sands sparkling; I hear the joyous shrieks of the swooping gulls.

I hear the waves breaking, crashing on rocks, like thunder in heaven. I see the mighty whales.

I watch the ebb and flow of the ocean tide; it holds my secret, my mournful flight from Eire.

Contrition fills my heart as I hear the sea; it chants my sins, sins too numerous to confess.

Let me bless almighty God, whose power extends over sea and land, whose angels watch over all.

Let me study sacred books to calm my soul; I pray for peace, kneeling at heaven's gates.

Let me do my daily work, gathering seaweed, catching fish, giving food to the poor.

Let me say my daily prayers, sometimes chanting, sometimes quiet, always thanking God.

Delightful it is to live on a peaceful isle, in a quiet cell, serving the King of Kings.

A Prayer of Columba

My dearest Lord,
Be thou a bright flame before me,
Be thou a guiding star above me,
Be thou a smooth path beneath me,
Be thou a kindly shepherd behind me,
Today and forever more.

A Blessing of St. Columba

given to his disciples on his death-bed
See that you be at peace among yourselves,
my children, and love one another.
Follow the example of good men of old,
and God will comfort you and help you,
in this world and in the world which is to come.

St. Patrick – A Morning Prayer

I arise today, through the strength of heaven:
Light of the sun, radiance of the moon.
Splendour of fire, speed of lightning,
Swiftness of wind, depth of sea,
Stability of earth and firmness of rock.
I arise today,
Through God's strength to pilot me:
God's might to uphold me,
God's wisdom to guide me,
God's eye to look before me,
God's ear to hear me,
God's word to speak for me,
God's hand to guard me,
God's way to lie before me,
God's shield to protect me.
From the snares of devils,
from temptation of vices,
From everyone who shall wish me ill,
Afar and near, alone and in a multitude.

St. Patrick – For God's Safe-keeping

May the strength of God pilot us.
May the power of God preserve us.
May the wisdom of God instruct us.
May the hand of God direct us.
May the shield of God defend us.
May the host of God guard us
against the snares of the evil one
and the temptations of the world.
May Christ be with us, Christ above us
Christ in us, Christ before us.
May thy salvation O Lord, be always ours
this day and for evermore.

A Blessing of St. Aidan of Lindisfarne

Blessed be the Creator of the earth;
Blessed be the Lord of the Harvest;
Blessed be Christ, who descended;
Blessed be the Word made flesh.
Blessed to us the land that it may be fruitful;
Blessed to us the ground,
that it may yield a harvest;
Blessed to us the earth,
that it may be the place of our resurrection.

A Song of Creation: Benediction

Bless the Lord all created things;
Sing His praise and exalt Him forever.

Bless the Lord, you heavens;
Bless the Lord, you angels of the Lord;
Bless the Lord, all you his hosts;
Bless the Lord, you waters above the heavens;
Sing His praise and exalt Him forever.

Bless the Lord, sun and moon;
Bless the Lord, you stars of heaven;
Bless the Lord, all rain and dew;
Sing His praise and exalt Him forever.

Bless the Lord, all winds that blow;
Bless the Lord, you fire and heat;
Bless the Lord, scorching wind and bitter cold;
Sing His praise and exalt Him forever.

Bless the Lord, dew and falling snows;
Bless the Lord, you nights and days;
Bless the Lord, light and darkness;
Sing His praise and exalt Him forever.

Bless the Lord, frost and cold;
Bless the Lord, you ice and snow;
Bless the Lord, lightning and clouds;
Sing His praise and exalt Him forever.

O let the earth bless the Lord;
Bless the Lord, you mountains and hills;
Bless the Lord, all that grows in the ground;
Sing His praise and exalt Him forever.

Bless the Lord, you springs;
Bless the Lord, you seas and rivers;
Bless the Lord,
you whales and all that swim in the waters;
Sing His praise and exalt Him forever.

Bless the Lord, all birds of the air;
Bless the Lord, you beasts and cattle;
Bless the Lord, all people on the earth;
Sing His praise and exalt Him forever.

O people of God, bless the Lord;
Bless the Lord, you priests of the Lord;
Bless the Lord, you servants of the Lord;
Sing His praise and exalt Him forever.

Bless the Lord, all you of upright spirit;
Bless the Lord,

you that are holy and humble in heart;
Bless the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit;
Sing His praise and exalt Him forever.

DAVID ADAM, "THE RHYTHM OF LIFE", TRIANGLE, 1996

Creation Kyrie: Lord have mercy

Upon all who seek to care for our world,
Lord have mercy.
Upon all who seek to conserve and preserve the earth's goodness,
Lord have mercy.
Upon all who work as your co-creators,
Lord have mercy.
Upon those who work in dark or dangerous places
Christ have mercy.
Upon those who suffer through pollution,
Christ have mercy.
Upon those whose land has been spoiled by war,
Christ have mercy.
Upon those who work on the land or the sea,
Lord have mercy.
Upon all artists, writers and craftspeople,
Lord have mercy.
Upon all who seek to make this world beautiful,
Lord have mercy.

DAVID ADAM, "THE RHYTHM OF LIFE", TRIANGLE, 1996

The Song of Caedmon (7th Century)

Now must we praise
the Warden of Heaven's realm
The Creator's might and his mind's thought,
The glorious works of the Father;
How of every wonder
He, the Lord, the eternal, laid the foundation.
He shaped earth, for the sons of men,
Heaven as their roof, Holy Creator,
The middle-world, He, mankind's Warden,
Eternal Lord, afterwards prepared
The earth for men, Lord Almighty.

God in Matter

Glorious Lord Christ: the divine influence secretly diffused and active in the depths of matter, and the dazzling centre where all the innumerable fibres of the manifold meet; power as implacable as the world and as warm as life ... you whose hands imprison the stars; you who are the first and the last, the living and the

SUNDAY SERVICE RESOURCE PACK

dead and the risen again; you who gather into your exuberant unity every beauty, every affinity, every energy, every mode of existence, it is you to whom my being cries out with a desire as vast as the universe, 'In truth you are my Lord and my God'.

TEILHARD DE CHARDIN (1851-1955)

God Bless the Earth
God bless the earth
And all living creatures
God bless the earth
With its rugged features
God bless the earth
Every town and city
God bless the earth
With all its industry
God bless the earth
Atmosphere and air
God bless the earth
Keep it in your care
God bless the earth
Protect the living soil
God bless the earth
May nothing despoil
God bless the earth
And its daily light
God bless the earth
Preserve it by your might.

DAVID ADAM, "POWER LINES", TRIANGLE, 1992

Creation Sunday

Lord God, Father of Creation,
You made all that exists from nothing:
Spoke into existence each bird and tree,
Designed the detail of each butterfly and flower,
Made us from dust, one part of your world.

Lord God, Saviour of the World,
You made your covenant with all living creatures:
Watch when a sparrow falls to the ground,
Sustain all creation by your word,
Send your Son to bring healing to creation.

Lord God, Spirit of Life,
You breathe your image into human beings;
Inspire us with love for your world,
Charge us to care for all you have made,
Invite us to steward and care for your world.

Blessed God, Father, Son, Spirit.
We praise you for all you have created.
Forgive us for taking your works for granted.
Equip us with vision and ability to fulfil our task:
To act justly, live simply and walk humbly with you, our God,
In the garden of your Creation,

Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.
REV. DAVE BOOKLESS, A ROCHA UK, 2003