



TO HOPE AND ACT WITH CREATION

SEASON OF CREATION 2024

The firstfruits of hope
(cf. Rom 8:19-25)

Season of Creation Prayer Service & Blessing of the Animals

Parishes may consider holding a prayer service to mark the end of the Season of Creation. Where it takes place in a church, a tableau displaying the fruits of the harvest may be arranged in the sanctuary or presented during the Service.

Parishioner may also be invited to have their animals blessed during the Service.

Where available, parishes may avail of the opportunity to organise a 'creation walk' or 'pilgrimage' incorporating elements of the Service during the walk.



**SEASON OF
CREATION**



To Hope and Act with Creation

Prayer Service for the Season of Creation 2024

Opening Hymn (*Choose from the suggested list*)

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. **And with your spirit.**

Welcome

Today we celebrate the conclusion of the Season of Creation. The theme “To Hope and Act with Creation” was our guiding inspiration this season of creation and will continue to inspire us as we move forward with a renewed sense of responsibility to love and respect creation.

God gave humanity dominion over all His creation, not to pillage, but to be responsible stewards of it.

Opening Prayer

Let us pray: Most provident God, You graciously give us all good gifts. Teach us to care for the earth: to till the soils responsibly, to keep the air pure, to free the waters from pollution, to harvest the warmth of the sun, to protect the climate and to respect the rights of all species. May we willingly share the gifts of your goodness with all. We ask this of you, God of the universe, through Christ Our Lord. *Amen.*

First Reading

A reading from the book of Micah

7:1-4.7

Woe is me! For I have become like one who,
after the summer fruit has been gathered,
after the vintage has been gleaned,
finds no cluster to eat;





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there is no first-ripe fig for which I hunger.
The faithful have disappeared from the land,
and there is no one left who is upright;
they all lie in wait for blood,
and they hunt each other with nets.
Their hands are skilled to do evil;
the official and the judge ask for a bribe,
and the powerful dictate what they desire;
thus they pervert justice.
The best of them is like a brier,
the most upright of them a thorn hedge.
The day of their sentinels, of their punishment, has come;
now their confusion is at hand.
But as for me, I will look to the Lord;
I will wait for the God of my salvation;
my God will hear me.

The Word of the Lord

Psalm

Ps 103/104: 1ab, 24. 27-28. 30-31. 33-34

℣. Send forth your spirit, O Lord, and renew the face of the earth.

1. Bless the Lord, my soul!
Lord God, how great you are.
How many are your works,
Lord! In wisdom you have made them all. ℣.
2. The earth is full of your riches.
All of these look to you to give them their food in due season.
You give it, they gather it up:
you open your hand, they have their fill. ℣.
3. You send forth your spirit, they are created;
and you renew the face of the earth.
May the glory of the Lord last for ever!
May the Lord rejoice in his works! ℣.
4. I will sing to the Lord all my life,
make music to my God while I live.





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May my thoughts be pleasing to him.

I find my joy in the Lord. R.

OR

Sing Psalm 104

'Send Forth your Spirit O Lord'

Lawton

Second Reading

A reading from the letter to the Romans

8:18-25

I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory about to be revealed to us. For the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the children of God, for the creation was subjected to futility, not of its own will, but by the will of the one who subjected it, in hope that the creation itself will be set free from its enslavement to decay and will obtain the freedom of the glory of the children of God.

We know that the whole of creation has been groaning together as it suffers together the pains of labour, and not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the first fruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly while we wait for adoption, the redemption of our bodies. For in hope we were saved. Now hope that is seen is not hope, for who hopes for what one already sees? But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience.

The Word of the Lord.

Gospel Reading

A reading from the Holy Gospel according to Matthew

9:35-38

Then Jesus went about all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues and proclaiming the good news of the kingdom and curing every disease and every sickness. When he saw the crowds, he had compassion for them because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd. Then he said to his disciples, "The harvest is plentiful, but the labourers are few; therefore, ask the Lord of the harvest to send out labourers into his harvest."

The Gospel of the Lord.





Presentation of the Fruits of the Earth

Where appropriate, the fruits of the land and the work of human hands may be brought in procession in thanksgiving for a bountiful harvest, God's blessing on the labours of our hands, and in appreciation for the food we place on our tables.

Intercessory Prayers

As the Lord assures his people of his nearness whenever they call to him, we bring our prayers before him.

1. We pray for Pope Francis and all leaders in the Church as they strive to work for justice, peace and the integrity of creation. **Lord, hear us.**
2. May we listen to the cry of the Earth, the victims of environmental disasters and climate crisis, and make a personal commitment to care for the world we inhabit. **Lord, hear us.**
3. Creator God, you showed us how to live on this earth when you were present among us in the person of Jesus. May we live out the values Jesus embodied, especially in his appreciation of the ordinary wonders of life: the lilies of the field, the sparrows that fall, the way the wind blows. **Lord, hear us.**
4. Creator God, in Christ you walked among us, attuned to the earth and its elements, the plants, trees and animals as well as human beings. May we have the same sense of connection and interdependence with the whole of creation. **Lord, hear us.**
5. Creator God, the parables Jesus used to teach are full of care for creation: The shepherd seeking the lost sheep, the farmer allowing the 'weeds' and the wheat to grow together until harvest time or the mustard seed growing into a plant that will shelter the birds of the air. May we follow him in having that same care for creation today. **Lord, hear us.**
6. Creator God, the sun, the wind and the waves are your gifts for the flourishing of the whole community of life on earth. Help us to use them creatively to produce sustainable energy for all. **Lord, hear us.**





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Heavenly Father, we ask you to hear our prayers, that our lives may always be guided by your Spirit to hope and act for creation as we should to protect Creation. We ask this through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

The Lord's Prayer

Confident that God hears the cry of the Earth and of the cries of all who live on it we unite our voices with theirs and pray as Jesus taught us.

Sharing of Peace

In Christ, we are called not to conform to this world, but to be transformed by the renewing of our minds. We seek to discern the will of God, to do what is good and acceptable and perfect.

Let us not lag in zeal but be ardent in spirit and serve God. We intend to live in harmony with one another and with all of Creation. Let us strive to live peaceably with all and share a gesture of peace with one another.

Reflection - A Prayer for our Earth

All-powerful God, you are present in the whole universe
And in the smallest of your creatures.
You embrace with your tenderness all that exists.
Pour out upon us the power of your love,
That we may protect life and beauty.
Fill us with peace that we may live
As brothers and sisters, harming no one.

O God of the poor,
Help us to rescue the abandoned and forgotten of the earth,
So precious in your eyes.
Bring healing to our lives,
That we may protect the world and not prey on it,
That we may sow beauty, not pollution and destruction.
Touch the hearts of those who look only for gain
at the expense of the poor and the earth.





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Teach us to discover the worth of each thing,
To be filled with awe and contemplation,
To recognise that we are profoundly
united with every creature,

As we journey towards your infinite light.
We thank you for being with us each day.
Encourage us, we pray, in our struggle
for Justice, love and peace. Amen.

(Pause for reflection)

Blessing of Animals

Where applicable, the blessing of animals may follow. All present are invited to hold or place their hands on their animals.

O God, you have done all things wisely; in your goodness you have made us in your image and given us care over other living things. Reach out with your right hand and grant that these animals may serve our needs and that your bounty in the resources of this life may move us to seek more confidently the goal of eternal life.
We ask this through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

May God, who created the animals of this earth as a help to us, continue to protect and sustain us with the grace his blessing brings, now and for ever. **Amen.**

Final Prayer and Blessing

Let us pray.

Creator God,

May this celebration today be a source of light and motivation for our concerns for the environment, directing us to care for all creation. (LS 236)

We ask this through Christ Our Lord, Amen

Final Hymn: 'How Great Thou Art'





Suggested Hymns for Season of Creation

The following is a list of traditional and contemporary hymns for the season of creation.

1. All Creatures of Our God and King
 - Version 1 Don Moen / Joel Claws
 - Version 2 Traditional London Philharmonic Choir
 - Version 3 Lifeway Worship
 - Version 4 Group Music
2. 'All things bright and beautiful'
 - Version 1 Sound of Worship or Worship Team
 - Version 2 St Michaels Singers
3. 'All things Bright and Beautiful'
 - Version 2 John Rutter
4. For the Beauty of the Earth
 - Version 1 Reawaken Hymns or Nathan Drake
 - Version 2 John Rutter & the Cambridge Choir
 - Version 3 St Philips Boys Choir
5. He's got the whole world in his hands
6. Let all Things Now Living
 - Version 1 Lifeway worship
 - Version 2 Craig Duncan Instrumental
 - Version 3 OPC Session Choir
7. Messiah / You're Beautiful
 - Version 1 Phil Wickham
8. You're Indescribable
 - Version 1 Chris Tomlin
9. Creation Sings the Fathers Song
 - Version 1 Keith and Kristyn Getty
10. So will I (100 times)
 - Version 1 Hillsong Worship
11. Climate Vigil Album

