

World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation
Overbrook Presbyterian Church
September 1, 2017

Collect from Orthodox Tradition

We praise and bless you, O Lord,
for you are the King of all ages, and through Christ your Son you
have made all that is.

In the beginning of the beginning, you breathed upon the waters of
creation,

and filled the earth with life through your vibrant Spirit.

The heavens declare your glory, O Lord,
and the stars of the sky bring light to our darkness.

You spoke, and the earth burst forth in life,
you saw that it was good.

You called forth creation, and enlivened every creature on land and sea.

You made human beings in your image,
and set us over the whole world in all of its wonders.

You gave us share in your dominion,
and called us “to till and to keep” this garden, the work of your hands.

As day gives way to evening,
we praise you for your manifold gifts.

May our adoration this night give glory to your name,
so that we may serve you with faithfulness and love.

May our daily care for your creation
show reverence for your name,
and reveal your saving power in every creature under heaven.

We make this prayer in the name of Christ your son,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit, One God forever and ever. Amen.

Hymn No. 14 “For the Beauty of the Earth”

Genesis 1:26-31

Psalm 8

“All Creatures of Our God and King”, the Prayer of St Francis (music video)

Psalm 148

Matthew 6:25-33

Laudato Si' video message

Prayers for the Earth

God, creator of the universe,
Fill us with your love for the creation,
for the natural world around us,
for the earth from which we come
and to which we will return.

Awake in us energy to work for your world;
let us never fall into complacency, ignorance,
or being overwhelmed by the task before us.
Help us to restore, remake, renew. Amen

Jesus, Redeemer of the World,
Remind us to consider the lost lilies,
the disappearing sparrows;
teach us not to squander precious resources;
help us value habitats: seas, deserts, forests
and seek to preserve this world in its diversity.
Alert us to the cause of all living creatures
destroyed wantonly for human greed or pleasure;
Help us to value what we have left
and to learn to live without taking more than we give. Amen

Spirit of the Living God

At the beginning you moved over the face of the waters.
You brought life into being, the teeming life
that finds its way through earth and sea and air,
that makes its home around us, everywhere.
You know how living things flourish and grow
How they co-exist; how they feed and breed and change
Help us to understand those delicate relationships,
value them, and keep them from destruction. Amen

God, of the living earth

You have called people to care for your world -
you asked Noah to save creatures from destruction.
May we now understand how to sustain your world –
Not over-fishing, not over-hunting,
Not destroying trees, precious rainforest
Not farming soil into useless dust.
Help us to find ways to use resources wisely
to find a path to good, sustainable living
in peace and harmony with creatures around us. Amen

Jesus, who raised the dead to life

Help us to find ways to renew
what we have broken, damaged and destroyed:
Where we have taken too much water,
polluted the air, poured plastic into the sea,
cut down the forests and soured fertile soils.
Help all those who work to find solutions
to damage and decay; give hope to those
who are today working for a greener future. Amen

God, You Made Your Good Creation

BEACH SPRING 8.7.8.7 D ("God Whose Giving Knows No Ending")

God, you made your good creation and you hold it in your care--
From each starry constellation to each forest under-layer.
Tiny creatures, mountain splendor, rivers, lakes and ocean floors--
You are loving, kind and tender in your care for what is yours.

Yet, O God, the earth is crying, times are changing, storms are strong.
Now the coral reefs are dying, floods are raging, droughts are long.
Though the circumstances differ, when the earth is in distress,
See! The poor are first to suffer from our greed and selfishness.

God, you love this world we live in, so you sent your only Son.
"Here on earth as in your heaven," God, we pray, "Your will be done."
By your Spirit, may we listen to the earth and to the poor;
May we care for all you've given till creation is restored.

Biblical References: Genesis 1-2; Psalm 8, 24, 104; Romans 8:19-23; 1 John 3:17; John 3:16; Matthew 6:10; Revelation 21:5 This hymn was inspired by "*Laudato Si'* (*Praise Be to You*): *On Care for Our Common Home*," 2015 Encyclical Letter of Pope Francis.

Benediction

Collect from Orthodox Tradition from the Vatican

http://www.iustitiaetpax.va/content/dam/giustiziaepace/Eventi/giornatamondialepreghiera curacreato2015/PCJP_WorldDayPrayerCreation2015_PROPOSAL_ENG.pdf

Laudato Si' video - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1tYdOlqvpqg&feature=youtu.be>

Prayers for Creation byr Anne Richards, Church of England's Mission Theology Advisory Group, Resources available on www.ctbi.org.uk *The Dispossession Project: Eco-House*

"God, You Made Your Good Creation" was written for this worship service. Copyright © 2016 by Carolyn Winfrey Gillette. All rights reserved.