

World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation

September 1, 2021

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.

Opening Hymn “For the Beauty of the Earth”

Genesis 1:26-31 *The Message*

God spoke: “Let us make human beings in our image, make them
reflecting our nature
So they can be responsible for the fish in the sea,
the birds in the air, the cattle,

And, yes, Earth itself,
and every animal that moves on the face of Earth.”
God created human beings;
he created them godlike,
Reflecting God’s nature.
He created them male and female.
God blessed them:
“Prosper! Reproduce! Fill Earth! Take charge!
Be responsible for fish in the sea and birds in the air,
for every living thing that moves on the face of Earth.”
²⁹⁻³⁰ Then God said, “I’ve given you
every sort of seed-bearing plant on Earth
And every kind of fruit-bearing tree,
given them to you for food.
To all animals and all birds,
everything that moves and breathes,
I give whatever grows out of the ground for food.”
And there it was.
³¹ God looked over everything he had made;
it was so good, so very good!
It was evening, it was morning—
Day Six.

Psalm 8

¹ O Lord, our Sovereign,
how majestic is your name in all the earth!
You have set your glory above the heavens.
² **Out of the mouths of babes and infants
you have founded a bulwark because of your foes,
to silence the enemy and the avenger.**
³ When I look at your heavens, the work of your fingers,
the moon and the stars that you have established;
⁴ **what are human beings that you are mindful of them,
mortals that you care for them?**
⁵ Yet you have made them a little lower than God,
and crowned them with glory and honor.
⁶ **You have given them dominion over the works of your hands;
you have put all things under their feet,**
⁷ all sheep and oxen,
and also the beasts of the field,
⁸ **the birds of the air, and the fish of the sea,
whatever passes along the paths of the seas.**
⁹ O Lord, our Sovereign,
how majestic is your name in all the earth!

Psalm 8 Prayer from *Book of Common Worship* (2018 edition)

God of majesty, amid the grandeur of your creation you sought us out, and by the coming of your Son you adorned us with glory and honor, giving us dominion over your works. Enable us so to care for the earth that all creation may radiate the splendor of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

Meditation “Jesus Call Us” Dr. Diane Moffett of Presbyterian Mission Agency

Psalm 148

¹ Praise the Lord!

Praise the Lord from the heavens;
praise him in the heights!

² **Praise him, all his angels;
praise him, all his host!**

³ Praise him, sun and moon;
praise him, all you shining stars!

⁴ **Praise him, you highest heavens,
and you waters above the heavens!**

⁵ Let them praise the name of the Lord,
for he commanded and they were created.

⁶ **He established them forever and ever;
he fixed their bounds, which cannot be passed.**

⁷ Praise the Lord from the earth,
you sea monsters and all deeps,

⁸ **fire and hail, snow and frost,
stormy wind fulfilling his command!**

⁹ Mountains and all hills,
fruit trees and all cedars!

¹⁰ **Wild animals and all cattle,
creeping things and flying birds!**

¹¹ Kings of the earth and all peoples,
princes and all rulers of the earth!

¹² **Young men and women alike,
old and young together!**

¹³ Let them praise the name of the Lord,
for his name alone is exalted;
his glory is above earth and heaven.

¹⁴ **He has raised up a horn for his people,
praise for all his faithful,
for the people of Israel who are close to him.**

Praise the Lord!

Psalm 148 Prayer from *Book of Common Worship* (2018 edition)

God Most High, by your Word you created a wondrous universe, and through your Spirit you breathed into it the breath of life. Accept creation's hymn of praise from our lips, and let the praise that is sung in heaven resound in the heart of every creature on earth, to the glory of the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit, now and forever.

Matthew 6:25-33

²⁵ "Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink, or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothing? ²⁶ Look at the birds of the air; they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not of more value than they? ²⁷ And can any of you by worrying add a single hour to your span of life? ²⁸ And why do you worry about clothing? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow; they neither toil nor spin, ²⁹ yet I tell you, even Solomon in all his glory was not clothed like one of these. ³⁰ But if God so clothes the grass of the field, which is alive today and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, will he not much more clothe you—you of little faith? ³¹ Therefore do not worry, saying, 'What will we eat?' or 'What will we drink?' or 'What will we wear?' ³² For it is the Gentiles who strive for all these things; and indeed your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things. ³³ But strive first for the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.

***Laudato Si'* message from Pope Francis**

Prayers for the Earth from Anglican/Episcopal Tradition

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.

Closing Hymn

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. The World Methodist Council gave this hymn to the Pope in a special gift book celebrating "*Laudato Si'*"

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Email: bcgillette@comcast.net New Hymns: www.carolynshymns.com

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Benediction

Sources

All Biblical quotations are from the New Revised Standard Version (NRSV) Bible unless otherwise stated.

Collect from Orthodox Tradition from the Vatican

http://www.iustitiaepax.va/content/dam/giustiziaepax/Eventi/giornatamondialepreghiera curacreato2015/PCJP_WorldDayPrayerCreation2015_PROPOSAL_ENG.pdf

Opening Hymn “For the Beauty of the Earth”

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XbXvCZfiOVM>

Meditation “Jesus Call Us” Dr. Diane Moffett of Presbyterian Mission Agency

<https://www.presbyterianmission.org/story/jesus-calls-us-video-addresses-climate-crisis/>

Laudato Si’ video with Pope Francis

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1tYdOlqvpqg&feature=youtu.be>

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

Closing Hymn: “God, You Made Your Good Creation” was written for World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation Copyright © 2016 by Carolyn Winfrey Gillette. All rights reserved. Thank you to the Rev. Scott Siciliano, the gifted Minister of Worship and the Arts, Colonial Park United Church of Christ Harrisburg, PA, for this wonderful recording.

<https://www.facebook.com/442004972489459/videos/251263289294675>