

May we, by your Spirit, do all in our power
to care for your earth in this critical hour.

Tune: Traditional Welsh hymn, in John Robert's *Caniadau y
Cyssegr (Songs of the Sanctuary)*, 1839 ("Immortal, Invisible, God
Only Wise") ([MIDI](#)) Text: Copyright © 2021 by Carolyn Winfrey
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insert may be found here:

https://www.carolynshymns.com/the_climate_is_changing.pdf

RESPONSIVE CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

One: Wherever you go in the world, north, south, east or
west,

Mountain or valley, desert or river, city or forest,
Go remembering that God calls us to serve and preserve
the earth,
and that God's breath, God's wind, God's spirit are
within and beyond us always.

**Many: We remember. We go to love and serve God
and God's Creation. Amen.**

*GTG – *Glory to God Hymnal*

Liturgy written by the Rev. Dr. Susan Gilbert
Zencka and offered to Presbyterians for Earth Care.
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A SERVICE OF PRAYER FOR THE WORLD DAY OF PRAYER FOR CARE OF CREATION SEPTEMBER 1, 2022

[Note: In both Greek and Hebrew, one word is used to mean breath,
or wind, or Spirit (in Greek it is *pneuma*; in Hebrew, *ruach*). Biblical
translators have historically chosen one or another of our English
meanings when translating from the original languages. I have
chosen to use the term "breath-wind-Spirit", to remind us that God's
spirit flows through creation in the wind, and resides in people and
animals in our breath. The Bible teaches that life begins with breath,
and breath comes from God.]

CALL TO WORSHIP

One: The earth is God's,

Many: And all that is in it.

One: This is the day that God has made;

Many: Let us rejoice and be glad in it!

INVOCATION

**Holy One, we read in Scripture that it is your breath-
wind-spirit that hovered over the deep as Creation
began, and it was your breath-wind-spirit that gave
us life. We give you thanks for your breath-wind-
spirit within, among, and beyond us today, and every
day, and we ask that our prayers might be joined to
yours as we pray today for the care of your good
Creation. Amen.**

A RESPONSIVE READING FROM THE PSALMS

Psalm 104:1-15, 19-24, 27-33

Common English Bible

- ¹Let my whole being bless the Lord!
Lord my God, how fantastic you are!
You are clothed in glory and grandeur!
- ²**You wear light like a robe;
you open the skies like a curtain.**
- ³You build your lofty house on the waters;
you make the clouds your chariot,
going around on the wings of the wind.
- ⁴**You make the winds your messengers;
you make fire and flame your ministers.**
- ⁵You established the earth on its foundations
so that it will never ever fall.
- ⁶**You covered it with the watery deep like a piece of
clothing;
the waters were higher than the mountains!**
- ⁷But at your rebuke they ran away;
they fled in fear at the sound of your thunder.
- ⁸**They flowed over the mountains,
streaming down the valleys
to the place you established for them.**
- ⁹You set a boundary they cannot cross
so they'll never again cover the earth.
- ¹⁰**You put gushing springs into dry riverbeds.
They flow between the mountains,
providing water for every wild animal—
the wild donkeys quench their thirst.**
- ¹²Overhead, the birds in the sky make their home,
chirping loudly in the trees.
- ¹³From your lofty house, you water the mountains.
The earth is filled full by the fruit of what you've
done.
- ¹⁴**You make grass grow for cattle;
you make plants for human farming
in order to get food from the ground,
and wine, which cheers people's hearts,
along with oil, which makes the face shine,
and bread, which sustains the human heart...**
- ¹⁹God made the moon for the seasons,
and the sun too, which knows when to set.
- ²⁰**You bring on the darkness and it is night,
when every forest animal prowls.**

²¹ The young lions roar for their prey,
 seeking their food from God.
²² When the sun rises, they gather together
 and lie down in their dens.
²³ **Then people go off to their work,
 to do their work until evening.**
²⁴ **Lord, you have done so many things!
 You made them all so wisely!**
The earth is full of your creations!
²⁷ ...All your creations wait for you
 to give them their food on time.
²⁸ When you give it to them, they gather it up;
 when you open your hand, they are filled completely
 full!
²⁹ **But when you hide your face, they are terrified;
 when you take away their breath-wind-spirit,
 they die and return to dust.**
³⁰ **When you let loose your breath-wind-spirit, they
 are created,
 and you make the surface of the ground brand-new
 again.**
³¹ Let the Lord's glory last forever!
 Let the Lord rejoice in all he has made!
³² He has only to look at the earth, and it shakes.
 God just touches the mountains, and they erupt in
 smoke.
³³ **I will sing to the Lord as long as I live;
 I will sing praises to my God while I'm still alive.**

HYMN For the Beauty of the Earth GTG* #14

I V IV I
 1 For the beauty of the earth,
 IV I V I
 for the glory of the skies,
 I V IV I
 for the love which from our birth
 IV I V I
 over and around us lies:

Refrain:

I V I V I
 Lord of all, to thee we raise
 IV I IV I V I
 this our hymn of grateful praise.

2 For the wonder of each hour
 of the day and of the night,
 hill and vale, and tree and flower,
 sun and moon, and stars of light: (Refrain)

3 For the joy of ear and eye,
 for the heart and mind's delight,
 for the mystic harmony
 linking sense to sound and sight: (Refrain)

4 For the joy of human love,
 brother, sister, parent, child,
 friends on earth, and friends above,
 for all gentle thoughts and mild: (Refrain)

5 For thyself, best gift divine
 to the world so freely given;
 for that great, great love of thine,
 peace on earth and joy in heaven: (Refrain)

A READING FROM THE BOOK OF ISAIAH

Isaiah 24:3-6

Common English Bible

³ The earth will be devastated, totally devastated;
 it will be destroyed, completely destroyed
 because the Lord has said it would be so.

⁴ The earth dries up and wilts;
 the world withers and wilts;
 the heavens wither away with the earth.
⁵ The earth lies polluted under its inhabitants,
 for they have disobeyed instruction,
 swept aside law,
 and broken the ancient covenant.
⁶ Therefore, a curse devours the earth; its inhabitants
 suffer for their guilt.
 Therefore, the earth's inhabitants dwindle; very few are
 left.

A MOMENT OF SILENCE [Adjust the time of this
 silence according to your congregation's ability to share
 silence together. I suggest 2-10 minutes.]

UNISON PRAYER

**Good and generous God, your loving energy flows
 through all of Creation, charging the atoms with
 potential and the heavens with light, connecting us to
 one another, to all life, and to you. We realize that
 the danger to your creation is not really a problem
 with technology or industry, but a problem of the
 human heart, as we see that even thousands of years
 ago, the prophet Isaiah was challenging your people
 to live in right relationship to Earth and to one
 another. We echo the words of the shepherd king,
 David, who cried out in repentance, "Create in me a
 clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within
 me." You have promised many times in your Word
 that you would give us a new heart—this is the time,
 O God, when we and all the Earth desperately need
 for humans to have a heart for your Creation.
 Create such a heart within us, Great Spirit God, and
 renew a right spirit within us, that we might serve
 and preserve your Creation, the creation that you
 called good. Help us to believe in our capacity to
 create change—in each of our own lives, and in our
 communities and nations. And then, grant us the
 energy, the hope, and the strength to live as people
 who have been changed by you, and by our trust in
 you. Amen.**

HYMN The Climate is Changing ST. DENIO

I IV V I V I
 The climate is changing! Creation cries out!
 I IV V I V I
 Your people face flooding and fire and drought.
 I
 V

We see the great heat waves and storms at their worst.
 V IV V I V I
 We pray for the poor, Lord — for they suffer first.

We pray for the animals here in our midst
 who cannot defend their own right to exist.
 We pray for the mountains and forests and seas
 that bear the harsh footprint of our human greed.

We thank you for people who treasure the earth,
 whose faith has long taught them its beauty and worth.
 We thank you as well for the children and youth
 who look to the future and speak out the truth.

We thank you for leaders, courageous and brave,
 who know that the earth is worth fighting to save,
 who care about justice and what they should do,
 who listen to science and work hard for you.

You love this good earth, and you sent us your Son!
 May we love our neighbors — there's work to be done.