

Morning Prayer – Presbyterians for Earth Care
Thursday, September 21

Opening Lutheran World Federation

Christ, our wounded healer
suffering the pains of creation,
 lead us back to the tree of life,
 to the source of healing for the earth.

Hymn *from* "Come, Lord, and Tarry Not" Horatius Bonar (1808-1889)

Come, Lord, and tarry not;
Bring the long-looked-for day;
O why these years of waiting here,
These ages of delay?

Come, for creation groans,
Impatient of Thy stay,
Worn out with these long years of ill,
These ages of delay.

Come and make all things new;
Build up this ruined earth;
Restore our faded Paradise,
Creation's second birth.

Scripture Jeremiah 12:10-13 (NRSV)

- [10] Many shepherds have destroyed my vineyard,
 they have trampled down my portion,
 they have made my pleasant portion
 a desolate wilderness.
- [11] They have made it a desolation;
 desolate, it mourns to me.
The whole land is made desolate,
 but no one lays it to heart.
- [12] Upon all the bare heights in the desert
 spoilers have come;
for the sword of the LORD devours
 from one end of the land to the other;
 no one shall be safe.
- [13] They have sown wheat and have reaped thorns,
 they have tired themselves out but profit nothing.
They shall be ashamed of their harvests
 because of the fierce anger of the LORD.

A pause for meditation and prayer upon the scripture...

Another Voice

Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew I

The root cause of all our difficulties lies in human selfishness and human sin. *What is asked of us is not greater technological skill but deeper repentance, or metanoia*, which in the literal sense of the Greek word signifies “change of mind.” The root cause of our environmental sin lies in our self-centeredness and in the mistaken order of values that we inherit and accept without any critical evaluation. We need a new way of thinking about our own selves, about our relationship with the world and with God. Without this revolutionary “change of mind,” all our conservation projects, however well intentioned, will remain ultimately ineffective. For we shall be dealing only with the symptoms, not with their cause. Lectures and international conferences may help to awaken our conscience, but what is truly required is a baptism of tears.

Prayer

Christian Conference of Asia, 1991

You gave us the care of the earth.
Today you call us: “Where are you: what have you done?”
(Silence)

We hide in shame, for we are naked.
We violate the earth and plunder it;
We refuse to share the earth’s resources;
We seek to own what is not ours, but yours.
Forgive us, Creator God, and reconcile us to your creation.

Teach us, Creator God of Love,
That the earth and all its fullness is yours,
The world and all who dwell in it.
Call us yet again to safeguard the gift of life. Amen.

Blessing

Peter W. Millar, *adapted*

May the good Lord show us
how to be frugal, till all are fed;
how to weep, till all can laugh;
how to be meek, till all can stand in pride;
how to mourn, till all are comforted;
how to be restless, till all live in peace;
how to claim less, till all find justice.
Then we will be blessed indeed
and the earth itself will be blessed through us.