

Liturgical Resources

Possibilities mentioned for "Plastic Jesus" Earth Day Theme

CONTEMPORARY LESSON "For All My Relations"

George Tinker

George Tinker, "For All My Relations": Justice, Peace, and the Integrity of Christmas Trees" (SOJOURNERS, January 1991), 20. Tinker was a professor at Iliff School of Theology in Denver, an ELCA minister and a member of the Osage and Cherokee Nations.

"The Lakota and Dakota peoples have a phrase used in all their prayers that aptly illustrates the Native American sense of the centrality of creation. The phrase, Mitakuye oyasin, "For all my relations," functions somewhat like the word "Amen" in European and American Christianity. As such, it is used to end every prayer, and often it is in itself a whole prayer, being the only phrase spoken. Like most native symbols, Mitakuye oyasin is polyvalent in its meaning. Certainly, one is praying for one's close kin--aunts, cousins, children, grandparents. And "relations" can be understood as tribal members or even all Indian people.

At the same time, the phrase includes all human beings, all two-leggeds as relatives of one another, and the ever-expanding circle does not stop there. Every Lakota who prays this prayer knows that our relatives necessarily include the four-leggeds, the winged, and all the living-moving things on Mother Earth. One Lakota teacher has suggested that a better translation of Mitakuye oyasin would read: "For all the above-me and below-me and around-me things: That is for all my relations."

These examples illustrate the extensive image of interrelatedness and interdependence--symbolized by the circle--and the importance of reciprocity and respect for one another for maintaining the wholeness of the circle."

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

A medical missionary to Labrador in 1909 wrote: *It has not been easy to convey to the Eskimo mind the meaning of the oriental similes of the bible. Thus, the 'Lamb of God' had to be translated to kotik or young seal. This animal, with its perfect whiteness as it lies in its cradle of ice, its gentle, helpless nature, and its pathetic innocent eyes, is probably as apt a substitute, however, as nature offers.*

Remembering that the kotiks, or young white baby seals, have been endangered due to overharvesting and loss of habitat, we revisit the ancient prayer of the church, "O Kotik of God, who takest away the sins of the world, have mercy on us, and grant us thy peace." Be assured that God in Christ has taken mercy upon us, the power of sin has been broken, and we are free to abide in God's peace together with all God's creatures. Amen.

READING from Ed Abbey:

Leader: We have failed to be good stewards of the earth. Listen to the anguished protest of Edward Abbey from his book, *The Journey Home: Some Words in Defense of the American West*:

Junk, trash, rubbish – our lives are debauched, our natural resources squandered, our native land ravaged in this mad production of metal, plastic, glass and paper garbage. Who needs throw-away beer cans? Bottle my beer (and let's go back to making real beer, by the way; no more of this watery green commercial (stuff) in solid, substantial, amber-colored jugs that fit a man's hand, that

rest solidly on a table and can be washed out and used over again, for (heaven's) sake., like they do it in Bavaria and Austria, where beer began. Who needs color televisions? It's bad enough in black and white and wavy stripes. Who needs trail bikes, snow-mobiles, electric razors? Winnebagos, power lawn mowers, Styrofoam packaging, bulk-rate mail? Ballpoint pens, glass office buildings with windows that can't be opened, tract homes made of green lumber and plasterboard? Condominiums with cardboard walls, polyurethane geodesic igloos, plumbing that doesn't work, blenders, dishwashers, dryers, plastic picnic plates, electric guitars and Moog synthesizers? Vinylite upholstery, synthetic textiles made from ersatz fibers, sour green oranges and acid-injected tomatoes and hormone-polluted beef shipped from 3,000 miles away, frozen grape juice, incomprehensible income-tax forms, short-life light bulbs, high-powered cabin cruisers on every pond and stream, spray deodorants, nondairy products, plywood ski hutches in the mountain valleys of Colorado and Utah, four-wheel-drive "recreation" vehicles, snow-making machines, Astrodomes, the Dallas-Ft. Worth airport, aluminum pie plates, Teflon frypans, artificial fruit "drinks", electric typewriters, all-electric homes, electric chairs, gas chambers, neon billboards, Las Vegas, Los Angeles, Los Alamos? The list goes on and on ad infinitum and anyone who wants to can easily make up a list ten times longer than mine.

While the real needs go unsatisfied: good beer, good fresh healthy food for all; homes and apartments for all that are well-made, well-designed, comfortable, durable and handsome; quick easy urban transit systems; good continental passenger train service, air that's fit to breathe, water that's fit to drink, food that's fit to eat, and now and then, when we want it, some space and solitude and silence. Is that too much to ask of a sane and rational political economy? (186-187)

LITURGY/MEDITATION ON THE LORD'S PRAYER

Used as part of the 1996 Commissioning Service for the first RCE's at Ghost Ranch, NM. It was adapted from the study guide for the nationwide PCUSA study on Sustainable Development, which provided input into the policy statement adopted by the 208th GA.

Reader 1: Our Father, who art in Heaven hallowed be your name. Your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in Heaven.

Reader 2: ...What is God's will for this earth and all its people? ...What would such a world look like? ... How can we as Christians help bring this prayer into reality?

People: Help us, O Lord, to know and to do your will.

Reader 1: Give us this day our daily bread.

Reader 2: ...How much food do we need a day? How much meat? How much gasoline, electricity heating, air conditioning? ...How can we help others get bread once a day? Meat once a week? Enough gasoline to drive to work, enough electricity to light the dark night, enough fuel to keep warm in the winter?

People: Help us, O Lord, to live more simply so that others may simply live.

Reader 1: Forgive us our sins.

Reader 2: ...In what way does our society hurt others by our demand for affluent lifestyles? ...How might our way of living be considered a sin against God's will?

People: Forgive us, O Lord, for the greed that keeps us overfed and overheated, overcooled and overwhelmed, while most people struggle to survive.

Reader 1: As we forgive those who sin against us.

Reader 2: ...Who has told us that we need all these things? Who has convinced us that greed is a virtue and overindulgence is an admirable habit?

People: Help us to forgive those who betrayed our trust, who have given us abundant waste instead of abundant life. Help us to distinguish between true values and vanity, so that we might be salt and light in the world once more.

Reader 1: Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

Reader 2: ...How can we escape the temptation of always wanting more?

People: Protect us from our own fears and insecurities that make us selfish and greedy. Turn our pantries of plenty into gifts of life for others.

Reader 1: For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, today as in eternity.

Reader 2: ...How can we use the power of God’s love, alive in us, to bring God’s kingdom closer for so many who struggle daily just to survive?

People: Help us, O Lord, to be participants in prayer that all your children may have enough food each day, that your creation may be sustained for future generations and that all people share in the bounty and goodness of life as you intend.

Reader 1: Your kingdom come on earth as it is in Heaven, forever and ever. Amen.

Possibilities Janet used for “Forests” NACD Stewardship Week Theme 3 years ago

John Muir Quotes

“The wrongs done to trees, wrongs of every sort, are done in the darkness of ignorance and unbelief, for when the light comes, the heart of the people is always right.”

“I drifted on through the midst of this passionate music and motion, across many a glen, from ridge to ridge; often halting in the lee of a rock for shelter, or to gaze and listen. Even when the grand anthem had swelled to its highest pitch, I could distinctly hear the varying tones of individual trees; -- Spruce, and Fir, and Pine, and leafless Oak, -- and even the infinitely gentle rustle of the withered grasses at my feet. Each was expressing itself in its own way, -- singing its own song, and making its own peculiar gestures, -- manifesting a richness of variety to be found in no other forest I have yet seen.”

“Few are altogether deaf to the preaching of pine trees. Their sermons on the mountains go to our hearts; and if people in general could be got into the woods, even for once, to hear the trees speak for themselves, all difficulties in the way of forest preservation would vanish.”

Contemporary Reading

Wendell Berry “The Journey’s End”

At any moment, I think, the forest may reveal itself to you in a new way. Some intimate insight, that all you have known has been secretly adding up to, may suddenly open into the clear -- like a grouse, that one moment seemed only part of the forest floor, the next moment rising in flight. Also it may not.

Where I am going I have never been before. And since I have no destination that I know, where I am going is always where I am. When I come to good resting places, I rest. I rest whether I’m tired

or not because the places are good. Each one is an arrival. I am where I have been going. At a narrow place in the stream I sit on one side and prop my feet on the other. For a while I content myself to be a bridge. The water of heaven and earth is flowing beneath me. While I rest a piece of the world's work is continuing here without my help.

John Muir Quote

Come to the woods, for here is rest. There is no repose like that of the green deep woods. Here grow the wallflower and the violet. The squirrel will come and sit upon your knee, the logcock will wake you in the morning. Sleep in forgetfulness of all ill. Of all the upness accessible to mortals, there is no upness comparable to the mountains.

Great Prayer of Thanksgiving (responsive)

The Creator be with you and all creation. **And also with you.**

Open your hearts. **We open them to our Creator.**

Let us give thanks to the Maker of heaven and earth.

It is right to join creation in thanking God.

It is right to give you thanks, loving Creator.

Your word is the impulse for all things to be,

for space, stars and stardust to appear,

for Earth to emerge from the deep,

for life to be born of Earth and

for humans to be born of Earth and the Spirit.

O God of all Creation, Your Spirit is the life impulse in all things, renewing the barren and healing the wounded,

groaning in anticipation of a new creation,

stirring a new life born of water and the Spirit.

You chose to be born a human being,

to become a part of Earth,

to suffer, die and rise from death

to redeem humankind, renew creation,

and affirm all born of Earth and the Spirit.

Your presence is the living impulse in all things,

the Christ deep among us,

filling Earth—land, sea and air—

filling every element and place,

filling the grain and the grape

we share with you this day.

Therefore with angels and archangels,

ancient voices in the forest, high voices from the sky,

deep voices from the sea and the whole company of creation,

we proclaim your presence among us.

Holy, holy, holy, God of all life,

Earth and sea and sky are full of your presence

and glorify your name. Amen.

John Muir Quotes

“The battle we have fought, and are still fighting for the forests, is a part of the eternal conflict between right and wrong, and we cannot expect to see the end of it. ... So we must count on watching and striving for these trees, and should always be glad to find anything so surely good and noble to strive for.”

“Everybody needs beauty as well as bread, places to play in and pray in, where nature may heal and give strength to body and soul.”

Charge to Engage in Mission Uniting Church in Australia

Christ calls you to be his disciples,
to serve him with love and compassion,
to be partners with Christ in healing our planet,
to serve Earth by caring for creation,
especially the forests that God has planted
to provide breath for all living creatures.

NACD Forests theme for Stewardship Week

If you choose the Forests theme for Soil & Water Stewardship Week, the 2011 church leadership resources on Forests suggested a list:

- Thank God for God’s beautiful forests, ask for help to care for it, study what Scripture has to say about the creation.
- Ask your town officials to support “current use” land taxation policies allowing eligible land to be taxed on its existing use, not its potential use.
- Support legislation (State and local) that provides funds for forest land conservation.
- Encourage innovative, new development strategies that protect open space;
- Buy local: Support local people who make a living from their land by buying locally grown products - firewood, Christmas trees, lumber, and farm products.
- Update your community’s comprehensive plan to include a clear forest conservation component.
- Establish a town forest.
- Plant a tree.
- Become more aware of the bountiful forests and enjoy the resource. This will heighten your tendency to want to protect it.
- Recognize forestry as a land use that is the best possible alternative in terms of water quality protection. Trees don’t pollute! Forested lands provide urban areas with drinking water.
- Support conservation land practices in your community.
- Buy wood and paper products from sustainable forests.
- Recycle, reuse and reduce waste.
- Commit to practicing stewardship on your own woodland, and to use your experience and your woodland to teach others.
- Thank a forest land owner.
- Get out and take a walk in the woods

Additional Liturgical Resources & Ideas

Call to Worship (responsive) *from Worship Resources, UCC "Council for American Indian Ministry"*

Leader: Everything as it moves, now and then, here and there, makes pauses.

People: The bird as it flies stops on one place to make its nest, and in another to rest in its flight.

In the same way, God has paused as well.

The sun, which is so bright and beautiful, is one place where God has paused.

The moon, the stars, the winds: God has been with them, too.

The trees, the animals, are all places where God has stopped, leaving the touch of the Holy in all these things.

We, too, have had God pause in us. We too have the Holy touch in our beings.

Let us now pause ourselves and listen for the voice of God on our hearts.

LITANY OF CREATION'S AGONY

"Creation Will Be Set Free" worship 2/8/90 CSWP & Eco-Justice Task Force Mtg

Reader: "And God saw everything that God had made, and behold, it was very good."

People: In the midst of this web of life, you brought forth the human race, and gave us the stewardship of all creation charging us to till and to keep the garden of life. You made a covenant with Noah, charging all living creatures together to be fruitful and multiply on the earth, and promising not to curse the ground for human sin.

Reader: "While the earth remains, seedtime and harvest, cold and heat, summer and winter, day and night, shall not cease."

People: But we have turned against you and betrayed your trust, and it is we who threaten the cycles of seedtime and harvest, cold and heat. We poison the shining waters, foul the sparkling air, and strip the living land of trees and topsoil. We destroy habitat for the other creatures we were charged to care for, herd them into torturous confinement, and sacrifice whole species. We have turned against your creation, and we have turned against each other, exploitation and oppressing our human and nonhuman neighbors. We have been blinded by pride in our dominion, and false trust in our own wisdom. Even when we can see our wrong, we have been paralyzed by feelings of helplessness and isolation.

Reader: "The earth mourns and withers, the world languishes and withers, the heavens languish together with the earth. The earth lies polluted under its inhabitants, for they have transgressed the laws, violated the statutes, broken the everlasting covenant."

People: Yet you have not abandoned us. You gave Israel the Law of justice and righteousness for the people and the land, and brought forth prophets and sages to lead the way. Finally you came into the world, incarnate in your Son Jesus, who shared our creaturely nature, bringing us forgiveness, healing, and new life, opening to us and to all creation the way of liberation and peace.

Reader: "I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory that is to be revealed to us. For the creation waits with eager longing of the revealing of the children of God; because Creation itself will be set free from its bondage to decay and obtain the glorious liberty of the children of God."

People: We give thanks for the life, death and resurrection of Jesus, and for the gift of your Holy Spirit who makes us one with Christ, with one another, and with all creation – giving us new life and courage for adventurous faithfulness, leading us to reaffirm our human vocation as stewards who seek a sustainable, sufficient, participatory life in solidarity with all creatures on a thriving earth. **CONFESSION OF SIN (UNISON)** based on 1990 Policy Statement Restoring Creation for Ecology & Justice

We confess that humanity has desecrated God’s wonderful, ancient, beautiful and good works in creation.

We confess that the church has powerful reason for restoring God’s creation. We pray that we may heed the call of the Creator to keep and heal the Creation.

We humbly acknowledge that human life and well-being depend upon the flourishing of other life. We pray for wisdom to recognize that humans depend upon the integrity of the life-supporting processes that God ordained at the beginning of Creation.

Christ’s command to love of our neighbor, particularly “the least” of these, requires action to stop exploiting the earth’s resources to the detriment of all species of life. Christ’s command compels us to see the links between environmental degradation and the suffering of poor people’s around the world.

Help us, O Creator God, so to live and act as to preserve your creation for our children and their children and all who come after.

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

St. Basil the Great

O God, enlarge within us the sense of fellowship with all living things, our brothers the animals to whom thou gavest the earth as their home in common with us.

We remember with shame that in the past we have exercised the high dominion of man with ruthless cruelty so that the voice of the earth, which should have gone up to thee in song, has been a groan of travail. May we realize that they live not for us alone but for themselves and for thee, and that they love the sweetness of life.

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Chinook Psalter, Earth Prayers, pp 180-181

May all I say and all I think
Be in harmony with thee,
God within me, God beyond me,
Maker of the trees.

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH (unison)

The church has powerful reason for engagement in restoring God’s creation: God’s works in creation are too wonderful, too ancient, too beautiful and too good to be desecrated.

Restoring creation is God’s own work in our time...God our Creator and Redeemer calls faithful people to become engaged with Him in keeping and healing the creation, both human and non-human. Human life and well-being depend upon the flourishing of other life, and the integrity of the life-supporting processes which God has ordained. The love of neighbor, particularly the “least” of Christ’s brothers and sisters, applies to other creatures in our world besides humans. The future of our children, and their children and all who come after us is at stake. (from 1990 GA Policy Statement on “Restoring Creation”)

LITANY BASED ON CHIEF SEATTLE'S SPEECH

Reader 1: Every part of this earth is sacred.

All: Every shining pine needle, every sandy shore,

Reader 2: Every mist in the dark woods,

All: Every clearing and every humming insect is holy.

Reader 1: The rocky crest, the juices of the meadow, the beasts and all the people,

All: All belong to the same family.

Reader 2: Teach your children that the earth is our mother.

All: Whatever befalls the earth befalls the children of the earth.

Reader 1: The water's murmur is the voice of our father's father.

All: We are part of the earth, and the earth is part of us.

Reader 2: The rivers are our brothers, they quench our thirst.

All: The perfumed flowers are our sisters.

Reader 1: The air is precious,

All: For all of us share the same breath.

Reader 2: This we know, the earth does not belong to us,

All: We belong to the earth.

Reader 1: This we know, all things are connected, like the blood which unites one family.

All: All things are connected.

Reader 2: Our God is the same God, whose compassion is equal for all.

All: For we did not weave the web of life, we are merely a strand in it.

Readers 1 & 2: Whatever we do to the web,

All: We do to ourselves.

CREATION CREED (UNISON)

Season of Creation – Uniting Church of Australia

**We believe that God creates all things,
renews all things, and celebrates all things.**

**We believe Earth is a sanctuary,
a sacred planet filled with God's presence,
a home for us to share with all creatures.**

We believe every creature joins us in praising God.

**We see many suffer with Earth
because of human crimes against creation.**

**We believe that God became incarnate
as a part of Earth, Jesus Christ,
that he lived and breathed and spoke among us,
suffered and died on a cross,
for all human beings and for all creation.**

**We believe that the risen Jesus Christ
fills the whole creation,
reconciling all things to God, renewing all things.**

**We believe the Spirit renews life in creation,
groans in empathy with every suffering creature,
and waits with us for the rebirth of the whole creation.**

**We believe that with Christ we will rise
and with Christ we will celebrate a new creation,
reconciled, restored, and renewed.**

THE ABBA PRAYER (UNISON)

**Dear One, closer to us than our own hearts,
farther from us than the most distant star, you are beyond naming.
May your powerful presence become obvious
not only in the undeniable glory of the sky,
but also in the seemingly ordinary and common processes of the earth.
Give us what we need, day by day, to keep body and soul together, because, intelligent as you
have made us, we still owe our existence to you.
We recognize that to be reconciled with you,
we must live peaceably and justly with other beings on earth, both human and non-human,
putting hate and bitterness and exploitation behind us.
We are torn between our faith in your goodness
and our awareness of the evil in our history and hearts,
Be-spoiling your creation, crushing your cherished children,
so deliver us from the temptation to despair.
Yours alone is the universe and all its majesty and beauty. So it is. Amen.**

HISTORIC LESSON

Meister Eckhart, 13th c.

Apprehend God in all things, for God is in all things.
Every single creature is full of God and is a book about God.
Every creature is a word of God.
If I spent enough time with the tiniest creature—
Even a caterpillar—
I would never have to prepare a sermon.
So full of God is every creature.

CONTEMPORARY READING

Edward Abbey

We know so little about this strange planet we live on, this haunted world where all answers lead only to more mysteries. The character of trees, for example, their feelings, emotions, personalities... four seasons of walking under those aspen trees, through the green translucence of summer and golden radiance of autumn, alone in the stillness of the forest, can do queer things to a man's common sense. You too might begin to wonder, not only about yourself, but also about those beings, alive, sentient, transpiring, which surround you. Especially the aspens, the quaking aspens, always so vibrant with light and motion, forever restless, always whispering, in tune like ballerinas to the music of the air. Walking there day after day, among those slim trim trees, so innocent (it seems) in their white and green or white and gold, you become aware after a while not only of the trees, but of the trees' awareness of you. What they felt I had no notion of; I never got to know them well as individuals. But their conscious presence was unmistakable. I was not alone.

UN ENVIRONMENTAL SABBATH PROGRAM (*Earth Prayers, ed. Roberts & Amideon*)

Great Spirit,
 Give us hearts to understand,
 Never to take
 From creation’s beauty more than we give,
 Never to destroy wantonly for the furtherance of greed,
 Never to deny to give our hands for the building of earth’s beauty,
 Never to take from her what we cannot use.
 Give us hearts to understand that to destroy earth’s music is to create confusion,
 That to wreck her appearance is to blind us to beauty,
 That to callously pollute her fragrance, is to make a house of stench,
 That as we care for her, she will care for us.

SPRING/EVENING PRAYER

WEB DuBois

Lord of the springtime, Father of flower, field and fruit, smile on us in these earnest days when the work is heavy and the toil wearisome; lift up our hearts, O God, to the things worthwhile – sunshine and night, the dripping rain, the song of the birds, books and music, and the voices of our friends. Lift up our hearts to these this night and grant us Thy peace. Amen.

PASTORAL PRAYER (RESPONSIVE)

God, we thank you that your love for all your creatures is so much greater than our indifference, greater than our lack of understanding.

We acknowledge that all of creation belongs to you, O God.

We thank you for the songbirds as they start to return south this autumn, the warblers and thrushes rushing about, hummingbirds filling up on nectar, the loons and geese preparing for their migration, eagles and hawks circling the skies for prey, the herons and sandpipers frequenting the shores, the owls and woodpeckers hiding in the woods.

We acknowledge that all the birds belong to you, O God.

We thank you for the deer we see along the edge of the roads and trying to eat the last of our summer garden produce, the clusters of turkeys that break cover for the open fields, the coyotes we hear calling over the island at night, the otters in the lakes and our resident otter in Goose Marsh, the moose whose habitat covers so much of this state, and all the animals who share this earth with us.

We acknowledge that all the animals belong to you, O God.

We thank you for the moths and butterflies who visited us all summer, the bees that play such a vital role in our crops and gardens, the ants who are slowing down in their mound-making, that black fly season doesn’t last any longer than a few weeks, and give thanks for all the insects that help keep soil healthy and pollinate plants.

We acknowledge that all the insects belong to you, O God. We thank you God for the bold purple of blooming crocuses, the cathedral-like majesty of pine groves, the perseverance of swamp vegetation, and all the trees and plants that breathe oxygen back into the air.

We acknowledge that all the trees and plants belong to you, O God.

We thank you for the trout, bass and salmon, which swim in the local lakes, and the cod, mackerel, bluefish and pollock in the Atlantic Ocean.

We acknowledge that all the fish of the oceans, lakes and rivers belong to you, O God.

All: Help us, Creator God, to open our eyes to the wonder around us, and grant us a deeper love, respect and appreciation for the diversity of the web of life you have created. Amen.

BENEDICTION

Edward Abbey, Earth Prayers, p 208

Benedicto: May your trails be crooked, winding, lonesome,
dangerous, leading to the most amazing view
May your rivers flow without end
meandering through pastoral valleys tinkling with bells,
past temples and castles and poet's towers
into a dark primeval forest where tigers belch and monkeys howl,
through miasmal and mysterious swamps and down into a desert of red rock,
blue mesas, domes and pinnacles and grottos of endless stone,
and down again into a deep, vast, unknown chasm
where bars of sunlight blaze on profiled cliffs,
where deer walk across the white sand beaches,
where storms come and go
as lightning clangs upon the high crags,
where something strange and more beautiful
and more full of wonder than your deepest dreams
waits for you –
beyond that next turning of the canyon walls.

CHINOOK PSALTER BLESSING

Earth Prayers, pp198-199

Blessing of galaxies, blessing of stars,
Great stars, small stars, red stars, blue ones.
Blessing of nebula, blessing of supernova,
Planets, satellites, asteroids, comets.
Blessing of our sun and moon, blessing of our earth,
Oceans, rivers, continents, mountain ranges
Blessing of wind and cloud, blessing of rain,
Fog bank, snowdrift, lightning and thunder.
Bless the wisdom of the holy one above us.
Bless the truth of the holy one beneath us.
Bless the love of the holy one within us.

Blessing of green plants, blessing of forests
Cedar, douglas fir, swordfern, salal bush,
Blessing of fish and birds, blessing of mammals:
Salmon, eagle, cougar and mountain goat.
May all humankind likewise offer blessing:
Old woman, young woman, wise men and foolish
Blessing of youthfulness, blessing of children

Big boys, little boys, big girls and little ones.
 Bless the wisdom of the holy one above us.
 Bless the truth of the holy one beneath us.
 Bless the love of the holy one within us.

Music

Choose congregational hymns, choral hymns, Prelude, Postlude music to fit the theme

Hymn “The Earth Is the Lord’s”

*"The earth is the Lord's and the fullness thereof."
 Creation reminds us, O God, of your love.
 By grace we are learning, as year leads to year,
 We're called to be stewards, your caretakers here.*

*Your rainforests nurture the world that we share.
 Your wetlands give animals shelter and care.
 Your coral reefs cradle the life of the sea.
 You've shown us, in love, what your good world can be.*

*Too often, O God, we abuse your good earth.
 We fail to remember its beauty and worth.
 We take from creation much more than we need,
 We threaten your world through indifference and greed.*

*May we be good stewards of all that you give,
 Protecting creation wherever we live.
 May we be a church that renews and restores
 And lovingly cares for this earth that is yours.*

Tune: St. Denio, Welsh Folk Hymn, Text: Copyright © 2001 by Carolyn Winfrey Gillette.

Resources & themes

There are lots of online resources to plan worship celebrating God’s creation.

Presbyterians for Earth Care <https://presbyearthcare.org/>

The ELCA also has a strong advocacy group and website with resources:

Lutherans Restoring Creation <https://lutheransrestoringcreation.org/>

Creation Justice Ministries <https://www.creationjustice.org/> There have been various campaigns on water, ocean, conservation, endangered, energy, climate change

Earth Ministry- [Earth Ministry – Stewardship of the earth](#)

Green Faith https://greenfaith.org/about/#gf_mission

Because the Earth and all people are sacred and at risk, GreenFaith is building a worldwide, multi-faith climate and environmental movement.

Season of Creation – WCC <https://seasonofcreation.org/>,

Season of Creation – Australian & Lutheran churches <https://seasonofcreation.com>
[Season of Creation | Uniting Church in Australia, Synod of Victoria and Tasmania](#)

Tree Poll

1. Trees are the largest and longest living organisms on the planet.
 - True
 - False
2. One large tree can provide the oxygen needed for 2 people to breathe.
 - True
 - False
3. A tree can absorb 48 pounds of carbon dioxide from car emissions each year.
 - True
 - False
4. Invasive plants cover about 133 million acres of land in the US, and are spreading at the rate of over 1 million acres per year.
 - True
 - False
5. One large tree can remove up to 100 gallons of water from the soil and release it into the air in a single day.
 - True
 - False
6. One person uses enough wood related products per year to equal a 100 foot tree that is 18 inches in diameter.
 - True
 - False
7. Giant sequoia trees can weigh over 4 million pounds.
 - True
 - False
8. Some Bristle cone pine trees in California and Nevada are over 4,000 years old.
 - True
 - False
9. If you hang a birdhouse in a tree, it remains at the same height, even though the tree grows taller over the years.
 - True
 - False