**PRAYER SERVICE**

**World Day of Prayer for Creation**

**September 1st, 2022**

**[Dawn Service in the Outdoors]**

**WELCOME AND OPENING PRAYER**

**Sample opening statement**:

*We have been reminded these past two years of just how interconnected we all are. The Coronavirus pandemic has highlighted that we are not separate from one another or from the rest of creation. And it has given many people a new-found appreciation for the beauty and wonder of nature as many people are venturing out for the first time into our parks and wilderness areas. We also recognize that while there are many divisions within our world, some very polarizing, one thing that unites all of us is that we all share the same home. We gather today in thanksgiving for this glorious gift of creation, and we ask for the Lord’s help to care for our world. We also reaffirm our personal vocation to be stewards of creation befitting the image bearers of God.*

Suggestion:

Take a few minutes for centering or meditation on some musical instrument.

**Suggested Opening Prayer**:

*God of unchangeable power, when you fashioned the world the morning stars sang together and the host of heaven shouted for joy; open our eyes to the wonders of creation and teach us to see all things for good, to the honor of your glorious name; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, One God forever and ever.* **Amen.**

[Adapted from a New Zealand Prayer Book.]

**\*Opening Hymn “Morning has Broken”**

**First Reading Genesis 1:1-31**

Consider assigning multiple readers to each day of creation or two readers alternating.

**Response to the Word**

Leader: Creator God, teach us to see you in the beauty of the universe, for all things speak of you. Awaken our praise and thankfulness for everything that you have made. Give us the grace to perceive that we are connected to everything that is.

[Silence]

Leader: In gratitude let us pray to the Lord.

**People: We give you thanks, O God.**

Leader: God whom we love, we stand before you with open and humble hearts. In our imagination, allow us to see and hear and feel the beautiful expressions of the earth, that speak to each of us - Mountains, rivers, prairie, oceans, forest, meadows, trees, flowers.

[Silence]

Leader: In gratitude let us pray to the Lord.

**People: We give you thanks, O God.**

Leader: God of love, show us our place in this world, as kin to all the non-human creatures with whom we share the earth. They came forth from your hand; they are yours, filled with your presence and your tender love, and not one of them is forgotten in your sight.

 [Silence]

Leader: In gratitude let us pray to the Lord.

**People: We give you thanks, O God.**

Leader: Saving God, we give thanks for all human beings on the earth, created from dust, yet crowned with glory, those we know and those who are strangers; those near to us and those far away; all of us beautiful, all of us flawed.

[Silence]

Leader: In gratitude let us pray to the Lord.

**People: We give you thanks, O God.**

Leader: God of abundance, we give thanks for the Sun, for water, for soil, for air, on which our lives depend moment by moment. In silence we are aware of our frailty, our complete dependence on our beloved Mother Earth who nurtures us and sustains our every breath.

[Silence]

Leader: In gratitude let us pray to the Lord.

**People: We give you thanks, O God.**

Leader: Creator God, we enjoy the abundant fruits of the earth, yet, we acknowledge that we in the developed world, have often wasted the gifts of the earth, taking more than our share, leaving our sisters and brothers in other places in poverty and need. Renew our minds and transform us into servants of the earth, so that her richness and bounty will sustain, not only us, but generations to come after us.

[Silence]

Leader: In gratitude let us pray to the Lord.

**People: We give you thanks, O God.**

[Adapted from a prayer written by Karen Turner for the Diocese of Toronto, Earth Sunday 2018 https://www.anglican.ca/wp-content/uploads/SOC-Additional-Resources.pdf]

**\*Hymn “How Great Though Art”**

**Listening to God**

Take five minutes to listen in silence and stillness to discern where the Holy Spirit may be leading and guiding. Give a one minute notice to allow people to journal anything which the Lord may be speaking to them.

**Sharing Discernment and Guidance**

Ask each person to share (or ask for specific volunteers in larger groups) what they heard during the quiet time. Leader take notes.

**Prayers of Intercession - Informal**

Leader introduces specific topics for the group to pray on, building on what was just shared. One topic is introduced at once. The leader begins the prayer and invites others to continue. When there are no further prayers, the leader closes the prayer on the topic and then introduces the next topic.

Once the topics are exhausted, the leader continues:

*Receive all these prayers, O God, in the tenderness of your mighty hand, and strengthen our hands to serve you, through Jesus Christ our Lord.* ***Amen.***

*Let us pray in the words Christ our Savior taught us:*

**Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy Kingdom come, thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors, and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the Kingdom, the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.**

**\*Closing Hymn “Be Thou My Vision”**

**\*Closing Prayer**

*Creator God, in this Season of Creation, we pray that the breath of your creative Word would move our hearts, as in the waters of our birth and baptism. Give us faith to follow Christ to our just place in the beloved community. Enlighten us with the grace to respond to your covenant and call to care for our common home. In our tilling and keeping, gladden our hearts to know that we participate with your Holy Spirit to renew the face of your Earth, and safeguard a home for all.*

*In the name of the One who came to proclaim good news to all creation, Jesus Christ.* **Amen.**

[Adapted from: https://seasonofcreation.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/05/2021-SOC-Full-Guide.pdf]

**\*Blessing and Charge**

Leader: The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

**People: Amen**

Leader: Go now in peace to care for God’s creation.

**People: Thanks be to God.**