

Creation-Focused Worship Resources for Earth Day, Rogation Days, and Every Sunday

Compiled by the Creation Care Justice Network in the Episcopal Diocese of Massachusetts, March 2021

5 easy ways to incorporate Creation and climate justice into worship:

1. In baptismal liturgies (including Easter Vigil, All Saints', Baptism of Jesus, etc.)

Add the 6th baptismal promise as a permanent feature of your baptismal Liturgy:

Q: Will you cherish the wondrous works of God, and protect the beauty and integrity of all creation?

A: I will, with God's help.

- A 6th Baptismal Promise proposed at General Convention 2015

2. Prayers of the People

- Prayers of the People, Forms 1, 2, 3, pp. 239-245, Liturgical Materials for Honoring God in Creation, The Episcopal Church's Standing Commission on Liturgy and Music, https://www.episcopalchurch.org/wp-content/uploads/sites/2/2021/01/liturgies_honoring_god_in_creation_sclm.pdf
- Prayers of the People with Confession, Racial Reconciliation Ministry, The Episcopal Church, <https://liturgyandmusic.files.wordpress.com/2018/01/prayers-sclm-racial-reconciliation-and-justice-final1-3.pdf>
- Intercession and Thanksgiving from the New Zealand Prayer Book, Thanksgiving for Creation and Redemption, <http://anglicanprayerbook.nz/456.html>
- Intercessions, Forms I and 2, New Zealand Prayer book, <https://anglicanprayerbook.nz/404.html>
- Prayers from Midday Prayer, #3, p. 163, NZPB, <https://anglicanprayerbook.nz/147.html>
- Add to your Prayers of the People (BCP or other) specific petitions about the climate crisis, the sixth extinction of species, those affected by climate change, environmental racism and environmental degradation, and our responsibility and joy in working for a just and sustainable society.

3. Confession of sin:

- A Confession of Sin against God's Creation, pp. 246-247, Liturgical Materials for Honoring God in Creation, The Episcopal Church's Standing Commission on Liturgy and Music, https://www.episcopalchurch.org/wp-content/uploads/sites/2/2021/01/liturgies_honoring_god_in_creation_sclm.pdf
- From Enriching Our Worship 1, <https://www.churchpublishing.org/siteassets/pdf/enriching-our-worship-1/enrichingourworship1.pdf>

- From NZPB Thanksgiving for Creation and Redemption, p. 458, <https://anglicanprayerbook.nz/456.html>
- From operationnoah.org, through Creation Care Prayers, The Church of England Environmental Programme, p. 15 <https://www.churchofengland.org/sites/default/files/2019-06/9-prayers-leeds-diocese.pdf>

When we are unkind to people,
and forget they are God's children,
When we are careless with the beasts,
and forget they are God's creation,
When we ill-treat the land,
and forget the splendour of God,
Forgive us, O God of love,
and reconcile us to yourself,
to one another and to the Creation.
Teach us that the earth and all its fullness is yours,
the world and all who dwell in it.
Remind us that your Son too enjoyed the fruits of the harvest in Galilee and joins
us now as we celebrate your good gifts together.
Call us again to safeguard the gift of life, now and forever. Amen

4. Eucharistic Liturgies with a Creation focus (approved for use in the diocese):

- Enriching Our Worship, Prayers 1, 2, and 3 <https://www.churchpublishing.org/siteassets/pdf/enriching-our-worship-1/enrichingourworship1.pdf>
- Thanksgiving for Creation and Redemption, New Zealand Prayer Book, <https://anglicanprayerbook.nz/456.html>
- Eucharistic Prayer C, 1979 Book of Common Prayer

5. The Lord's Prayer or its equivalent

- The Lord's Prayer, Maori & Polynesia, New Zealand Book of Common Prayer, p. 181, <https://anglicanprayerbook.nz/167.html>

Eternal Spirit,
Earth-maker, Pain bearer, Life-giver,
Source of all that is and that shall be,
Father and Mother of us all,
Loving God, in whom is heaven:

The hallowing of your name echo through the universe;
The way of your justice be followed by the peoples of the world;
Your heavenly will be done by all created beings;
Your commonwealth of peace and freedom
sustain our hope and come on earth.

With the bread we need for today, feed us.
In the hurts we absorb from one another, forgive us.
In times of temptation and test, strengthen us.
From trial too great to endure, spare us.
From the grip of all that is evil, free us.
For you reign in the glory of the power that is love,
now and forever. Amen.

- The Lord's Prayer (An environmental responsive Lord's Prayer) from Creation Care Prayers, The Church of England Environmental Programme. p. 27, <https://www.churchofengland.org/sites/default/files/2019-06/9-prayers-leeds-diocese.pdf>

Leader: Our father in heaven

People: You are also at home in the air, soil, forests and Oceans

Leader: Hallowed be your name

People: By the care we take of your creation

Leader: Your kingdom come

People: All that you see is good

Leader: Your will be done on earth, as it is in Heaven.

People: Your will to till and care

Leader: Give us this day our daily bread

People: That all may have sufficient to live life in fullness.

Leader: Forgive us our trespasses

People: Our greed, our exploitation, our lack of concern for other species and for future generations

Leader: As we forgive those who trespass against us

People: By reconciliation with justice and peace

Leader: Lead us not into temptation

People: The temptation to equate dominion with exploitation

Leader: And deliver us from evil

People: The evil of destroying your gift of creation

Leader: For yours is the kingdom

People: Yours, Lord, not ours

Leader: The power and the glory

People: In the cross and resurrection

Leader: For ever and ever

People: You are the beginning and you are the end. Amen. (So be it)

Rogation Days:

- A Rogation Day Procession and Liturgy, pp. 251-255, Liturgical Materials for Honoring God in Creation, The Episcopal Church's Standing Commission on Liturgy and Music, https://www.episcopalchurch.org/wp-content/uploads/sites/2/2021/01/liturgies_honoring_god_in_creation_sclm.pdf

- Prayers for Rogation Days: A Rite for the Blessing of a Garden, p. 256, Liturgical Materials for Honoring God in Creation, The Episcopal Church's Standing Commission on Liturgy and Music, https://www.episcopalchurch.org/wp-content/uploads/sites/2/2021/01/liturgies_honoring_god_in_creation_sclm.pdf

Propers for Honoring God in Creation (collects and readings), p 236-238, Liturgical Materials for Honoring God in Creation, The Episcopal Church's Standing Commission on Liturgy and Music, https://www.episcopalchurch.org/wp-content/uploads/sites/2/2021/01/liturgies_honoring_god_in_creation_sclm.pdf

Other prayers: Daily meditations and prayers on Scripture by Canon Carol Gallagher, often incorporating images and prayers of/for Creation, <https://mamabishop.blogspot.com>

A Prayer for Our Time and for the Earth

Dear God, Creator of the earth, this sacred home we share;
Give us new eyes to see the beauty all around and to protect the wonders of creation.
Give us new arms to embrace the strangers among us and to know them as family.
Give us new ears to hear and understand those who live off the land
and to hear and understand those who extract its resources.
Give us new hearts to recognize the brokenness in our communities
and to heal the wounds we have inflicted.
Give us new hands to serve the earth and its people
and to shape beloved community.
For you are the One who seeks the lost,
binds our wounds and sets us free,
and it is in the name of Jesus the Christ we pray. Amen.

**– Bishop Carol Gallagher, Member of the Cherokee Nation
and Regional Canon, Diocese of Massachusetts**