Standing Liturgical Advisory Commission of the Church in Wales

**Times and Seasons: Part 4**

**Creationtide**

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## Creationtide – Pastoral and Liturgical Introduction

Traditionally, events in the agricultural year became a part of the liturgical year. For example, the custom of blessing the plough at seed-time, the Rogationtide prayers and procession, the celebration of Lammas, when the first loaf was baked with the first of the wheat harvest, and a thanksgiving for the safe gathering of the harvest. The cycle of Creationtide has come about more recently, beginning with Creation Sunday on the first Sunday of Ordinary Time. This cycle now celebrates God’s creation in all its diversity.

Recalling God’s command to care for the earth and its creatures, we ask for God’s help in our stewardship of the environment. As we grow more aware of the fragility of life on earth we realise the dangerous consequences for wildlife from human exploitation of natural resources. This gives urgency to our prayers of lament, penitence and commitment. In the face of climate change, we pray for farmers undergoing agricultural crises due to disease and unseasonable weather. Through ‘Forest Church’ all-age worship we link our prayers and praise to the Creator in a physical encounter with God’s creation. Our close relationship and interdependence upon creation is also celebrated in the blessing of pets.

Industrial Sunday reminds us that our relationship to the planet and use of God’s creation for industry needs to be guided by divine wisdom rather than human greed. In post-industrial areas, where both the land and the local economy are in need of healing, this liturgy should be handled sensitively.

The greater part of creation upon our planet is not on land, but rather at sea. Calling this to mind in worship, especially on Sea Sunday (the 2nd Sunday in July), we ask for God’s blessing on the seas and on those who work there, as well as those who protect them.

Finally, in caring for God’s creation, we have a responsibility to care for one another as God’s creatures. The final section of resources contains prayers for carers, for Education Sunday, for survivors of trauma and abuse, for organ donation and for One World Week. Pastoral care and sensitivity should be used with these prayers and partnership with hospital, school and community chaplains will help to determine their most appropriate use in specific contexts.

**A Reflection upon the Relationship between the Agricultural and Liturgical Year**

Christmas and the winter solstice are mirrored by the feast of John the Baptist (24th June) and the summer solstice. These two festivals reflect one other - Jesus is juxtaposed with John the Baptist. *c.f. John 3.30 ‘He must increase, but I must decrease’.*

Easter falls close to the vernal equinox (21st March). It is a point of balance of day and night, light and dark, a time to celebrate in Christ’s resurrection the reconciliation between God, the earth and all its creatures. The autumnal equinox lies close to our traditional harvest festival. Easter marks spiritual fullness in eternal life, and harvest thanksgiving marks the fullness of God’s provision for life. The midpoint between winter and spring falls on 2nd February. This ‘Celtic Spring’ sees a plethora of feasts: Candlemas, St Bridget, St. Seiriol, and St. Teilo. It is the time when snowdrops are in full flower, a sure sign that earth is warming after the winter.

*Determined but humble with heads hung low against the wild winter. As midwife they sing: ‘It is at hand.’*

*Gwydn ond gostyngedig gyda’u pen i lawr yn erbyn y gaeaf gwyllt. Fel bydwragedd canant hwy****:*** *‘Mae e gerllaw.’ (Clychau Mair* by Stuart Elliott*)*

The midpoint between the spring equinox and midsummer (1st May) falls close to Ascension, Rogation, Pentecost, and the feast of St. Melangell.

*From the Hearth onto the heath. Winter to summer dwelling. Stretching, learning to rejoice.*

*O’r Hendref i’r Hafod. Preswylir o’r Gaeaf i’r Haf. Ymestyn, dysgu llawenhau.*

(*Genir yr Haf* by Stuart Elliott)

# A THE AGRICULTURAL YEAR

## 1 Creation Sunday (Second Sunday before Lent)

### a. Creation Sunday Eucharist – Order A

#### Short Passages of Scripture

God saw everything that he had made, and indeed, it was very good.

Genesis 1.31

O Lord, how manifold are your works!

In wisdom you have made them all;

the earth is full of your creatures.

##### Psalm 104: 24

In Christ all things in heaven and earth were created,

whether thrones or dominions or rulers or powers –

all things have been created through him and for him.

##### Revelation 4:11

#### Introduction to Confession

God’s whole creation groans. The land produces thorns and thistles and is ready for burning. Our sin affects all around us. We confess our sins in penitence and faith.

##### ECY

Human sin disfigures the whole creation, which groans with eager longing for God’s redemption. We confess our sins in penitence and faith.

##### PW

#### Kyrie Confessions

Your righteousness, Lord, is like the strong mountains,

and your justice is like the great deep.  
Lord, have mercy.

**Lord, have mercy.**

With you is the well of life,

and in your light shall we see light.

Christ, have mercy.

**Christ, have mercy.**

O continue your righteous dealing

to those who are true of heart.

Lord, have mercy.

**Lord, have mercy**.

##### ECY

Or:

Consider the birds of the air;

they do not sow or gather into barns,

yet your heavenly Father feeds them.

Lord, have mercy.

**Lord, have mercy.**

Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow;

they do not toil nor spin,

yet even Solomon in all his glory was not clothed like one of these.

Christ, have mercy.

**Christ, have mercy.**

Have little faith you have.

Seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness.

Lord, have mercy.

**Lord, have mercy.**

##### Matthew 6: 26, 28, 29, 30, 33

Or:

You delight in creation, its colour and diversity;

Yet we have misused the earth,

and plundered its resources

for our own selfish ends.

Lord, have mercy.

**Lord, have mercy.**

You have brought order out of chaos,

light in darkness,

good out of evil,

but we have preferred darkness

in words and deeds which dishonour God’s holy name.

Christ, have mercy.

**Christ, have mercy.**

You have showered us with blessings,

but we have been grudging towards others,

and lacking in generosity in word and deed.

Lord, have mercy.

**Lord, have mercy.**

##### CWTS, p. 600

#### Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia.

God has spoken to us by his Son,

through whom he also created the worlds.

**Alleluia.**

##### *Hebrews 1:1-2*

#### Acclamations

Blessed are you, Lord God, King of the Universe!

**Your word brings on the dusk of evening.**

Your wisdom creates both night and day.

**You determine the cycles of time.**

You arrange the succession of the seasons

and establish the stars in their heavenly courses.

**Lord of the starry hosts is your name.**

Living and eternal God, rule over us always.

**Blessed be the Lord, whose word makes evening fall.**

##### ECY

Where were you when I laid the foundations of the earth?

Who determined its measurements?

**Lord, I know that you can do all things,**

**your purpose stands for ever.**

Where were you when the morning stars sang together

and all the heavenly beings shouted for joy?

**Lord, I know that you can do all things,**

**your purpose stands for ever.**

Who shut in the sea with doors when it burst out from the womb,

when I made the clouds its garment?

**Lord, I know that you can do all things,**

**your purpose stands for ever.**

Have you commanded the morning since your days began,

and caused the dawn to know its place?

**Lord, I know that you can do all things,**

**your purpose stands for ever.**

From whose womb did the ice come forth

and who has given birth to the hoar-frost of heaven?

**Lord, I know that you can do all things,**

**your purpose stands for ever.**

Who has put wisdom in the inward parts,

or given understanding to the mind?

**Lord, I know that you can do all things,**

**your purpose stands for ever.**

##### Job 38; 42.2

#### Intercession

Let us pray to God the Almighty, the King of creation.

God said, ‘Let there be light’.

Eternal God, we thank you for your light and your truth.

We praise you for your fatherly care

in creating a universe which tells forth your glory.

Inspire us to worship you, the creator of all,

and let your light shine upon our world.

God of life:  
**hear our prayer.**

God said, ‘Let there be a firmament in the midst of the heavens’.

We thank you for the vastness of the universe and the mysteries of space.

We pray for all scientists and astronomers

who extend the boundaries of our knowledge.

As we contemplate the wonder of the heavens,

confirm us in the truth that every human being is known and loved by you.

God of life:  
**hear our prayer.**

God said, ‘Let the waters be gathered together, and let dry land appear’.

We thank you for the beauty of the earth,

for the diversity of land and sea,

for the rich resources of the earth.

Give us the will to cherish this planet

and to use its bounty for the good and welfare of all.

God of life:  
**hear our prayer.**

God said, ‘Let there be lights in the sky to separate the day and the night’.

We thank you for the warmth and light of the sun,

the light of the moon, the glory of the stars.

We praise you for the formations of clouds,

the radiance of dawn and sunset.

Save us from wasting or abusing the energy on which all life depends.

Open our eyes to behold your beauty,

and our lips to praise your name.

God of life:  
**hear our prayer.**

God said, ‘Let the waters bring forth living creatures, and let birds fly across the sky’.

We thank you for the teeming life of the seas,

and the flight of the birds.

Help us so to protect the environment that all life may flourish.

God of life:  
**hear our prayer.**

God said, ‘Let the earth bring forth living creatures of every kind’.

We rejoice in the variety of animal life.

Grant us grace to treat all animals with respect and care;

to protect endangered species,

to preserve the variety of habitats,

and to honour the delicate balance of nature.

God of life:  
**hear our prayer.**

God said, ‘Let us create human beings in our own image’.

We pray for the human family.

We exult in its diversity and giftedness,

we repent of its sins, divisions, and violence.

By the power of your Spirit,

restore your image within us,

through Christ who came to re-make us by his death and resurrection.

God of life:  
**hear our prayer.**

Almighty God,

you have created the heavens and the earth

and made us in your own image:

teach us to discern your hand in all your works

and your likeness in all your children;

through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,

who with you and the Holy Spirit reigns supreme over all things,

now and for ever.

Amen.

Or:

Heavenly Father, you have filled the world with beauty:

open our eyes to behold your gracious hand in all your works;

that, rejoicing in your whole creation,

we may learn to serve you with gladness;

for the sake of him through whom all things were made,

your Son Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen**.

*TEC, BCP p. 814*

#### Introduction to the Peace

Peacemakers who sow in peace

raise a harvest of righteousness.

##### *ECY*

You shall go out in joy and be led forth in peace.;

the mountains and hills before shall burst into song

and all the trees of the field shall clap their hands.

##### Isaiah 55:12

#### Prayer at the Preparation of the Table

As the grain once scattered in the fields

and the grapes once dispersed on the hillside

are now reunited on this table in bread and wine,

so, Lord, may your whole Church soon be gathered together

from the corners of the earth into your kingdom.

**Amen**.

CWTS

Blessed be God,

by whose grace creation is renewed,

by whose love heaven is opened,

by whose mercy we offer our sacrifice of praise.

**Blessed be God for ever.**

CW

#### Preface

And now we give you thanks,

because in him our risen Lord, the new creation is being brought to perfection,

a broken world is being renewed,

and creation itself will share in the glorious liberty of the children of God.

And now we give you thanks because

all things are of your making,

all times and seasons obey your laws,

but you chose to create us in your own image,

setting us over the whole world in all its wonder.

You made us stewards of your creation to praise you day by day

for the marvels of your wisdom and power:  
so earth unites with heaven

to sing the new song of creation:

*ECY*

#### Extended Preface

It is indeed right, it is our duty and our joy,

always and everywhere to give you thanks,

holy Father, almighty and eternal God.

For you have created the heavens and the earth,

and formed us in your own image.

In the fulness of time you sent forth your Son, your eternal Word,

through whom you have created all things.

He laid down his life for our salvation,

and rose from the grave, the first fruits of your new creation.

You send forth your holy and life-giving Spirit

to give life to our mortal bodies,

and to renew the face of the earth.

Therefore with all the heavenly hosts,

we give voice to everything that you have made,

and sing the eternal hymn of praise.

*CWTS, p.604*

#### Blessing and Endings

May God the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,

who is the source of all goodness and growth,

pour his blessing upon all things created,

and upon you his children

that you may use his gifts to his glory

and the welfare of all peoples;

and the blessing……..

PW

May God who clothes the lilies and feeds the birds of the sky,

who leads the lambs to pasture and the deer to water,

who multiplied loaves and fishes

and changed water into wine,

lead us, feed us, multiply us,

and change us to reflect the glory of our Creator

now and through all eternity, and the blessing…

##### ECY

Go in peace.

Tend the earth,

care for God’s good creation,

and bring forth the fruits of righteousness.

Go in the peace of Christ.

**Thanks be to God.**

*CWTS, p. 631*

### b. Creation Sunday Eucharist – Order B

#### The Gathering

At the entry of the ministers a hymn may be sung.

In the name of the Father, and of the Son,  
and of the Holy Spirit.

**Amen.**

Grace and peace be with you:

**and keep you in the love of Christ.**

Lord, fill us with the knowledge of your will

**that we may bear fruit in every good work.**

#### Prayer of Preparation

**Heavenly Father,  
all hearts are open to you,  
no secrets are hidden from you.**

**Purify us with the fire of your Holy Spirit,**

**that we may love and worship you faithfully,**

**through Jesus Christ our Lord.  
Amen.**

#### Prayers of Penitence

God so loved the world

that he gave his only Son Jesus Christ

to save us from our sins,  
to be our advocate in heaven,   
and to bring us to eternal life.

We confess our own sin, and the sins of humanity,

in the misuse of God’s creation.

God our Father;  
we are sorry for the times

when we have used your gifts carelessly,

and acted ungratefully.  
Hear our prayer, and in your mercy:  
**forgive us and help us.**

We enjoy the fruits and gifts of the harvest,

but sometimes forget that you are the giver.

Father, in your mercy:  
**forgive us and help us.**

We belong to communities that are full and satisfied,

but ignore those who are hungry.  
Father, in your mercy:  
**forgive us and help us.**

We are thoughtless,  
and neglect our duty to care for the world you have made.

Father, in your mercy:  
**forgive us and help us.**

We store up goods for ourselves alone,

as if there were no God and no heaven.

Father, in your mercy:

**forgive us and help us.**

The Lord enrich you with his grace,  
and nourish you with his blessing;  
the Lord defend you in trouble

and keep you from all evil;

the Lord accept your prayers,  
and absolve you from your offences,  
for the sake of Jesus Christ, our Saviour.  
**Amen.**

#### The Gloria

**Glory to God in the highest,  
and peace to his people on earth.**

**Lord God, heavenly King,  
almighty God and Father,  
we worship you,**

**we give you thanks,**

**we praise you for your glory.**

**Lord Jesus Christ,**

**only Son of the Father,**

**Lord God, Lamb of God,  
you take away the sin of the world:  
have mercy on us;**

**you are seated at the right hand of the Father:**

**receive our prayer.**

**For you alone are the Holy One,  
you alone are the Lord,  
you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ,**

**with the Holy Spirit,  
in the glory of God the Father.  
Amen.**

Blessed are you, Lord God of all creation,

how majestic is your name in all the earth;

you dry up the green tree and make the dry tree flourish;

in your hand is the life of every living thing  
and the breath of every human being; Ezekiel 17:24

As your Son made the multitude to sit down on the green grass

and fed them with the bread of life, John 6:10

make us to lie down in green pastures  
and lead us beside still waters; Psalm 23:2  
so that, like a tree planted by water,  
which does not fear the heat but whose leaves shall stay green, Jeremiah 17.8  
we may be refreshed and sustained in you,   
and honour the everlasting covenant  
you have established with your creation,  
for you have seen that it is very good. Genesis 1.31  
Blessed be God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit.  
**Blessed be God forever.**

The Liturgy of the Word

#### Readings

At the end of each reading, the reader says:

This is the word of the Lord.  
**Thanks be to God.**

#### Hymn

#### Gospel reading

*When the Gospel is announced the reader says*

Listen to the Gospel of Christ according to *N.*

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

At the end the reader says:

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

#### The Sermon

#### The Nicene Creed

**We believe in one God,  
the Father, the Almighty,**

**maker of heaven and earth,**

**of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,**

**the only Son of God,**

**eternally begotten of the Father,**

**God from God,  
Light from Light,**

**true God from true God,  
begotten, not made,  
of one Being with the Father.  
Through him all things were made.  
For us and for our salvation  
he came down from heaven;  
by the power of the Holy Spirit  
he became incarnate from the Virgin Mary,  
and was made man.  
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;  
he suffered death and was buried.  
On the third day he rose again  
in accordance with the Scriptures;  
he ascended into heaven  
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.  
He will come again in glory  
to judge the living and the dead,  
and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the Lord, the giver of life,  
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,  
who with the Father and the Son  
is worshipped and glorified,  
who has spoken through the prophets.**

**We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.**

**We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.**

**We look for the resurrection of the dead,  
and the life of the world to come.**

**Amen.**

Act of Eco Commitment A Rocha

When God created the heavens and the earth, he declared that it was good.

*Genesis 1.31*

As we offer our sacrifice of prayer and thanksgiving,  
we pledge that we will honour the everlasting covenant

between God, the creator of all things who loves the world,

and the creation which responds in joyful praise.

Let us pray.

**Lord God,  
the earth is yours and all that is in it,  
the world, and those who live in it;   
hear our prayer, accept our service and receive our pledge:**

May our *worship* honour your generous gifts;

may we explore together our responsibilities

to the creation of which we are a part,

in preaching and teaching, in prayer and praise:  
**for the earth is yours and all that is in it.**

May our *church buildings* be houses of prayer,

temples to your glory,

and signs of the renewing power of your grace

to sustain and refresh all life;  
may our use and development of the resources we have inherited

be an example of careful nurturing of discipleship and fruitful witness:  
**for the earth is yours and all that is in it.**

May we allow the *land* we occupy to flourish in your care;

may we share and protect both open space and managed earth,

and build community with and through the land and all it sustains:  
**for the earth is yours and all that is in it.**

May we live as the body of Christ,

fostering relationships within our *local and global communities*,

and raising awareness of how our actions

affect our brothers and sisters across the world,

having a particular care for the poor and vulnerable:

**for the earth is yours and all that is in it.**

May we show in our *lives* what we claim in our words,

revealing in our discipleship our love for you,

for each other, and for your world,

following your command to bear fruit that will last:  
**for the earth is yours and all that is in it.**

**Lord God,  
we pledge ourselves to your service**

**in caring for your creation,**

**that your kingdom may grow**

**from the seed of hope  
into a tree of righteousness**

**and justice for the world,  
and the creation itself**

**will be set free from its bondage to decay**

**and will obtain the freedom of the glory**

**of the children of God,**

**through Jesus Christ our Lord.  
Amen.**

Prayers of thanksgiving and intercession may follow, ending with:

O Lord our God,

you brought your people into a good land,  
and send showers of blessing

that the earth shall yield its increase;

flourish within us your gift of faith  
that, in our worship, our churches,

our communities, and our lives,

we may honour and renew your creation  
and join in obedience

with the wind and the waters,  
the wilderness and the desert,  
the birds of the air and the fish of the sea,  
and all created things to give glory and praise  
to the image of the invisible God,  
the first born of all creation, Colossians 1:15  
Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,  
who is alive and reigns with you  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

#### The Liturgy of the Sacrament

#### The Peace

You shall go out in joy and be led back in peace;  
the mountains and the hills before you shall burst into song,

and all the trees of the field shall clap their hands.

##### Isaiah 55.12

The peace of the Lord be always with you

**and also with you.**

Let us offer one another a sign of peace.

Blessed be God,  
by whose grace creation is renewed,  
by whose love heaven is opened,  
by whose mercy we offer our sacrifice of praise.

**Blessed be God for ever.**

#### The Eucharistic Prayer

The Lord be with you

**and also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them up to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

The Eucharistic Prayer continues…

And now we give you thanks  
because all things are of your making,  
all times and seasons obey your laws,  
but you have chosen to create us in your own image,

setting us over the whole world in all its wonder.

You have made us stewards of your creation,  
to praise you day by day  
for the marvels of your wisdom and power;  
so earth unites with heaven  
to sing the new song of creation:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord,**

**God of power and might,**

**heaven and earth are full of your glory.  
Hosanna in the highest.**

**Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.**

**Hosanna in the highest.**

The Eucharistic prayer continues…

[Let us proclaim the mystery of faith:]

**Christ has died,**

**Christ is risen;**

**Christ will come in glory.**

The Eucharistic Prayer continues.

#### The Lord’s Prayer

Filled with awe at the wonders and works of God,

as our Saviour taught us, so we pray:

**Our Father who art in heaven,  
hallowed be thy name,**

**thy kingdom come,  
thy will be done,  
on earth as it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread.  
And forgive us our trespasses  
as we forgive those who trespass against us.**

**And lead us not into temptation  
but deliver us from evil.  
For thine is the kingdom,**

**the power and the glory,  
for ever and ever.  
Amen.**

Or:

**Our Father in heaven…**

#### Breaking of the Bread

The president breaks the consecrated bread.

We break this bread to share in the body of Christ.

**Though we are many, we are one body,**

**for we all share in one bread.**

**Lamb of God,**

**you take away the sin of the world,**

**have mercy on us.**

**Lamb of God,**

**you take away the sin of the world,**

**have mercy on us.**

**Lamb of God,**

**you take away the sin of the world,**

**grant us peace.**

Come, let us receive the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ, given for us,  
and feed on him in our hearts by faith with thanksgiving.

The president and people receive communion.

During the distribution hymns and anthems may be sung.

#### The Sending Out

Give thanks to the Lord for he is gracious:

his love is everlasting.

***The Post-Communion Prayer***

**Creator God,  
you give seed for us to sow,  
and bread for us to eat;**  Isaiah 55.10**make us thankful for what we have received**

**and generous in supplying the needs of others**

**so all the world may give you thanks and glory,**

**through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

The Lord be with you

**and also with you.**

***The Blessing***

God the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ  
who is the source of all goodness and growth,  
pour out his blessing upon all things created,  
and upon you his children,  
that you may use his gifts to his glory

and for the welfare of all peoples;

and the blessing of God almighty,  
the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit,  
be among you and remain with you always.  
**Amen.**

***The Dismissal***

Tend the earth, care for God’s good creation,

and bring forth the fruits of righteousness.

Go in the peace of Christ.  
**Thanks be to God.**

### c. Online Creation Sunday Service

If we have a candle, we light it now  
to remind us that the Light of Christ is with us

and will never be extinguished.

#### Opening Prayer

Come, Lord, fill the hearts of your faithful people

and kindle within us the fire of your love. **Amen.**

#### Collect for Creation Sunday

Let us pray.

Almighty God,  
you have created the heavens and the earth

and made us in your own image:  
teach us to discern your hand in all your works

and your likeness in all your children;

through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,  
who with you and the Holy Spirit

reigns supreme over all things,  
now and for ever. **Amen.**

The Readings

Old Testament Reading

After the reading:

This is the word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

New Testament Reading

After the reading:

This is the word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

#### The Gospel

Listen to the gospel of Christ according to Saint…

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

After the Gospel:

This is the Gospel of the Lord

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

#### The Sermon

#### A Statement of Faith

Together we declare our faith in God:

**We believe in God the Father,  
from whom every family  
in heaven and on earth is named.   
We believe in God the Son,  
who lives in our hearts through faith, and fills us with his love.**

**We believe in God the Holy Spirit,  
who strengthens us  
with power from on high.   
We believe in one God;  
Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Amen.**

##### CW

#### Sign of peace

God will speak peace to his people,

to those who turn to him in their hearts.

The peace of the Lord be with us always.

#### Hymn

#### Prayers

Let us pray to God,  
that he will bring to fruition all that he desires for his creation.

Father, Lord of creation,

**in your mercy, hear us.**

You have created the universe by your eternal Word,  
and have blessed humankind in making us stewards of the earth.

We pray for your world,  
that we may share and conserve its resources,  
and live in reverence for the creation  
and in harmony with one another:

Father, Lord of creation,

**in your mercy, hear us.**

You have given the human race a rich land,

a land of streams and springs,  
wheat and barley,  
vines and oil and honey. Deuteronomy 8.8

We have made by sin a world of suffering and sorrow.  
We pray for those who bear the weight of affliction,  
that they may come to share the life of wholeness and plenty.

Father, Lord of creation,

**in your mercy, hear us.**

In Christ you call us to a new way of life,  
loving our neighbours before ourselves.  
May we live as the body of Christ,  
fostering relationships within our local and global communities,

and raising awareness of how our actions affect

our brothers and sisters across the world,  
having a particular care for the poorest and most vulnerable.

Father, Lord of creation,

**in your mercy, hear us.**

Help us to treat with care and respect the world as it is  
as we live in hope and anticipation of the world

as it will be when your kingdom comes and your will is done.  
Thank you for those, living and departed,  
who have shown a true respect for your creation.  
Help us to follow in their footsteps,  
until, with them, we see you face to face,  
where all is made new in Christ our Lord.

Merciful Father,

**accept these prayers  
for the sake of your Son**

**our Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen.**

A time of silent prayer

Gathering our prayers together, united we pray:

**Our Father, who art in heaven..... / Our Father in heaven…**

#### Hymn

#### Final prayer

The love of the Lord Jesus draw you to himself;

the power of the Lord Jesus strengthen you in his service;

the joy of the Lord Jesus fill your hearts.....

and now Lord, bless us and keep us,  
make your face shine upon us and be gracious to us.

Lord look kindly on us  
and give us peace.   
**Amen.**

May we go forth into our lives

surrounded by the love of God,  
the peace of Christ,  
and in the power of the Holy Spirit.

**Amen.**

## 2. Plough Sunday

*Forms of prayer are provided for the blessing of a plough and the blessing of seed, along with lectionary provision. The material can be incorporated into the Holy Communion or A Service of the Word. Other resource material from Seasons and Festivals of the Agricultural year may be used or adapted appropriately*.

### a. The Blessing of the Plough

Blessed are you, Lord God of all creation:

for in your abundant care you have given us a fertile land,

the rich soil, the seasons in their courses.

You provide seed for sowing, water, light and warmth

to bring forth the miracle of growth.

You give us skill to work the land, to prepare it and nourish it,

that it may be fruitful.

By your blessing,

let this plough be a sign of all that you promise to us.

Prosper the work of our hands,

and provide abundant crops for your people to share.

Blessed be God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

Blessed be God for ever.

CWTS, p. 607

God speed the plough!

**God speed the plough!**

### b. The Blessing of Seed

Blessed are you, Lord God of all creation:.

in your goodness you have given us this seed to sow.

In it we perceive the promise of life,

the wonders of your creative love.

By your blessing,

let this seed be for us a sign of your creative power,

that in sowing and watering,

tending and watching,

we may see the miracle of growth,

and in due course reap a rich harvest.

As this seed must die to give life,

reveal to us the saving power of your Son,

who died that we might live,

and feeds us with the good seed of your word.

Blessed be God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit.  
**Blessed be God for ever.**

*CWTS*

By itself the earth produces:

**first the stalk, then the ear, then the full grain in the ear.**

### c. Short Passages of Scripture

There is a time to sow,

and a time to reap.

*Ecclesiastes 3.2*

Sow for yourselves righteousness;

reap steadfast love;

break up your fallow ground;

for it is time to seek the Lord

that he may come and rain righteousness upon you.

##### *Hosea* 10:12

A sower went forth to sow,

and some seed fell into good soil.

##### Mark 4: 3, 8

The one who sows bountifully

will also reap bountifully.

##### 2 Corinthians 9: 6

## 3*.* Rogationtide

### a. Eucharist in Rogationtide

#### Acclamations

**God be gracious to us and bless us:**

**and make his face to shine upon us.**

Let the peoples praise you, O God:

Let all the peoples praise you.

**God be gracious to us and bless us.**

God will judge the peoples with equity

and guide the nations upon earth.

**God be gracious to us and bless us.**

The earth has yielded its increase:

God, our God, has blessed us.   
**God be gracious to us and bless us.**

**God be gracious to us and bless us:  
and make his face to shine upon us.**

Psalm 67

#### Invitation to Confession

Let us ask God to have mercy on our land,

and to prosper the work of our hands.

Let us ask him to have mercy on our self-sufficiency

and our forgetfulness of his goodness to us in creation.

Lord, you give us this good earth,

yet we take your generous gifts for granted.

Lord, have mercy.

**Lord, have mercy.**

Lord, you give us this good earth,

but we squander its rich resources.

Christ, have mercy.

**Christ, have mercy.**

Lord, you give us this good earth,

but we fail to share your bounty with all of your children.

Lord, have mercy.

**Lord, have mercy.**

CWTS, p. 607

#### Gospel Acclamations

Alleluia. Alleluia.

Ask and you will receive, says the Lord, so that your joy may be complete.

Alleluia.

John 16:24

Alleluia, alleluia.

The seed is the word of God, says the Lord.

**Alleluia**.

*Luke 8:11*

#### Intercessions

Let us ask the God of creation to send a blessing upon us.

Upon the rich earth send a blessing, O Lord.

Let the earth be fruitful,

and let its resources be hallowed.

We ask in faith:  
**we ask you to hear us, good Lord.**

Upon human labour send a blessing, O Lord.

Prosper the work of our hands;

may all find dignity and just reward in their work;

save us from exploitation and oppression.

We ask in faith:  
**we ask you to hear us, good Lord.**

Upon our crops and livestock send a blessing, O Lord.

Guide us into a sustainable future,

and give us the will to share the fruits of the world.

We ask in faith:  
**we ask you to hear us, good Lord.**

Upon the seas and waters send a blessing, O Lord

Teach us to cherish the water of the earth,

and to conserve the seas, lakes and rivers.

We ask in faith:  
**we ask you to hear us, good Lord.**

Upon aid agencies send a blessing, O Lord.

Where the earth is parched and the well has run dry;

where war brings want, and children go hungry.

Where the poor cry out for bread and for justice,

give hands to care and heal, and compel us to be generous.

We ask in faith:  
**we ask you to hear us, good Lord.**

We ask you to hear us, good Lord,

for the sake of your Son,

our Saviour Jesus Christ.

**Amen.**

*CWTS, p. 610*

God our creator,

whose good earth is entrusted to our care

and delight and tenderness,

Lord, we pray:  
May those who sow in tears

**reap with shouts of joy.**

Ps. 126.6

For all who live in captivity to debt,

whose lives are cramped by fear

from which there is no turning

except through abundant harvest.

Lord, we pray:

May those who sow in tears

**reap with shouts of joy.**

For all who depend on the earth for their daily food and fuel,

whose forests are destroyed

for the profit of a few.

Lord, we pray:

May those who sow in tears

**reap with shouts of joy.**

For all who labour in poverty,

who are oppressed by unjust laws,

who are banned for speaking the truth,

who long for a harvest of justice.

Lord, we pray:

May those who sow in tears

**reap with shouts of joy.**

For all who are in captivity

to greed and waste and boredom,

whose harvest is choked

with things they do not need.

Lord, we pray:

May those who sow in tears

**reap with shouts of joy.**

Turn us again from our captivity

and restore our vision,

that our mouth may be filled with laughter

and our tongue with singing. **Amen.**

Psalm 126. 1, 5

#### Introduction to the Peace

By prayer and supplication with thanksgiving,

let your requests be made known to God.

And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding

will guard your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus. Philippians 4:6-7

#### Prayer over the gifts

Blessed are you, Lord God of all creation:  
through your goodness we have this bread to offer,

which earth has given and human hands have made.

It will become for us the bread of life.

**Blessed be God for ever.**

Blessed are you, Lord God of all creation:  
through your goodness we have this wine to offer,

fruit of the vine and work of human hands.

It will become for us our spiritual drink.

**Blessed be God for ever.**

Or

Blessed be God,

by whose grace creation is renewed,

by whose love heaven is opened,

by whose mercy we offer our sacrifice of praise.

**Blessed be God for ever.**

#### Preface

And now we give you thanks for your promise

that while the earth endures,

seedtime and harvest, cold and heat,

summer and winter, day and night,

will never cease.



Genesis 8.22

#### Extended Preface

It is indeed right and good

to give you thanks and praise,

almighty God and Father,

through Jesus Christ your Son.

Through him you have created us in your own image,

and made us stewards of your good creation.

Through him you teach us to exult in the birds of the air,

the lilies of the field,

and the precious and life-giving crops of the earth.

Through him you free us from the slavery of sin,

giving him to die upon the cross,

and to rise again for our salvation.

Through him, you begin your work of a new creation,

as we look for a new heaven and a new earth

in which your righteousness dwells.

Therefore, we join with angels and archangels,

and give voice to every creature under heaven,

for ever praising you and saying:

CWTS, p. 613

**Holy, holy, holy…**

#### Blessing

May God the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,

the source of all goodness and growth,

pour his blessing upon all things created,

and upon you his children

that you may use his gifts to his glory

and the welfare of all peoples;

and the blessing….

PW, p. 304

Go in peace.

Tend the earth, care for God’s good creation,

and bring forth the fruits of righteousness.

**Thanks be to God.**

### b. The Rogationtide Procession

This may be a procession within the church building or in the open air, whether the traditional beating of the bounds or a specified procession in part of the Parish. Prayers and readings may be used at suitable places. The following resources may be used according to circumstances.

THE LITANY

The Litany may be said or sung.

Sections i and iii must always be used, with any or all of the sub-sections ii a, b and c.

Let us pray.

***I*** God the Father,

**have mercy on us.**

God the Son,

**have mercy on us.**

God the Holy Spirit,

**have mercy on us.**

Holy, blessed, and glorious Trinity,

**have mercy on us.**

From all evil and harmful actions;

from pride, vanity and hypocrisy;

from envy, hatred and malice;

and from all evil intent,

**Good Lord, deliver us.**

From sloth, worldliness and love of money;

from hardness of heart

and contempt for your word and your laws,

**Good Lord, deliver us.**

From sins of body and mind;

from the deceits of the world, the flesh and the devil,

**Good Lord, deliver us.**

From famine and disaster;

from violence and murder,

and from dying unprepared,

**Good Lord, deliver us.**

In all times of sorrow; in all times of joy;

in the hour of death, and at the day of judgement,

**Good Lord, deliver us.**

By the mystery of your holy incarnation;

by your birth, childhood and obedience;

by your baptism, fasting and temptation,

**Good Lord, deliver us.**

By your ministry in word and work;

by your mighty acts of power;

and by your preaching of the kingdom,

**Good Lord, deliver us.**

By your agony and trial;

by your cross and passion;

and by your precious death and burial,

**Good Lord, deliver us.**

By your mighty resurrection;

by your glorious ascension;

and by the coming of the Holy Spirit,

**Good Lord, deliver us.**

***ii*** Hear our prayers, O Lord our God.

**Hear us, good Lord.**

Give us a reverence for the earth as your creation,

that we may use its resources with integrity

in the service of others and to your honour and glory.

**Hear us, good Lord.**

Bless and keep all your people.

**Hear us, good Lord.**

***c*** Help and comfort those who are

lonely, bereaved and oppressed.

**Lord, have mercy.**

Keep in safety those who travel, and all who are in danger.

**Lord, have mercy.**

Heal those who are sick in body, mind or spirit,

and provide for all who are homeless,

hungry and destitute.

**Lord, have mercy.**

Show your pity on prisoners and refugees,

and all who are in trouble.

**Lord, have mercy.**

Have mercy on all humanity.

**Lord, have mercy.**

Forgive our enemies, persecutors and slanderers,

and turn their hearts.

**Lord, have mercy.**

Hear us as we remember

those who have died in the peace of Christ,

and grant us with them a share in your eternal kingdom.

**Lord, have mercy.**

***iii*** Give us true repentance;

forgive our sins of negligence and ignorance,

and our deliberate sins;

and grant us the grace of your Holy Spirit

to amend our lives according to your holy word.

**Holy God,**

**holy and strong,**

**holy and immortal,**

**have mercy on us.**

The Litany concludes with the Lord’s Prayer, a collect (of the day, or for morning or evening) and The Conclusion (Section 4 from Morning and Evening Prayer).

When the Litany is used at the Holy Eucharist, it replaces everything in the Eucharist before the collect. The intercession is omitted.

B. The following readings may be used at suitable points in the procession. A selection may be made from either Table A or Table B according to circumstances. Suitable hymns or songs may be used in place of the psalmody.

A B

1. Deuteronomy 26: 1-11 Psalm 147:1-13 Genesis 8:12-23

2. Job 38: 1-11, 16-18 Psalm 104: 25-37 Leviticus 26: 1-13

3. Ezekiel 47: 6-12 Psalm 107:23-32 Deuteronomy 8: 1-10

4. Ecclesiasticus 38: 27-32 Psalm 107: 1-9 Hosea 2: 18-23

5. Acts 14: 8-18 Psalm 107:33-end James 4: 7-11

6. 2 Corinthians 9:9-11a Psalm 112 Romans 8: 18-25

7. Philippians 4: 4-7 Benedicite 1 Corinthians 3:10-14

8. Mark 11: 22-24 or Matthew 6:7-15 John 6: 22-40 or 12: 23-26

#### Short sentences of Scripture

Let the people praise you, O God;

let all the people praise you.

Then shall the earth bring forth her increase,

and God, our God, will bless us.

Psalm 67: 5, 6

Let the favour of the Lord our God be upon us;

and prosper for us the work of our hands.

Psalm 90:17

The Lord will give what is good,

and our land will yield its increase.

Psalm 85: 12

Sow for yourselves righteousness;

reap steadfast love;

break up your fallow ground;

for it is time to seek the Lord,

that he may come and rain righteousness upon you.

Hosea 10:12

Do not worry about anything,

but in everything, by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving,

let your requests be made known to God.

Philippians 4:6

## 4 Lammastide

As the word Lammas suggests, the setting for this material is the Holy Communion. The Lammas loaf, or part of it, may be used as the bread of the eucharist, or the Lammas loaf and the eucharistic bread may be kept separate. Suitable patterns of readings are suggested.

#### Resources for Eucharist in Lammastide

#### The Gathering

At the entry of the ministers a hymn may be sung.

In the name of the Father,

and of the Son,

and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

Grace and peace be with you

**and keep you in the love of Christ.**

#### The Presentation of the Lammas Loaf

The president introduces the service with these or other suitable words:

Dear friends, the people of God in ancient times presented to the Lord an offering of firstfruits as a sign of their dependence upon God for their daily bread. At this Lammastide, we bring a newly-baked loaf as our offering in thanksgiving to God for his faithfulness.

Jesus said, I am the bread of life;

those who come to me shall never be hungry

and those who believe in me shall never thirst.

The Lammas loaf is brought to the president

Blessed are you, Lord God of all creation,

you bring forth bread from the fields .

and give us the fruits of the earth in their seasons,

accept this loaf which we bring before you,

made from the harvest of your goodness.

Let it be for us a sign of your fatherly care.

Blessed are you, Lord our God, worthy of our thanksgiving and praise.

**Blessed be God for ever.**

CWTS, p. 619

As those who know the generosity of God, let us confess our sins,

especially the ways in which we take his good gifts for granted.

Lord, you give us this day our daily bread.

Forgive us our trespasses.

Lord, have mercy.

**Lord, have mercy.**

Lord, you give us this day our daily bread,

Let us not be led into temptation.

Christ, have mercy.

**Christ, have mercy.**

Lord, you give us this day our daily bread.

Deliver us from evil.

Lord, have mercy.

**Lord, have mercy.**

Almighty God,

who forgives all who truly repent,

have mercy on you and set you free from sin,

strengthen you in goodness

and keep you in eternal life;

through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

The Gloria in excelsis may be used.

The service continues with the Collect of the Day.

#### Readings

#### a***. The Offering of First-fruits***

Leviticus 23: 9-14

Psalm 126

1 Corinthians 15: 12-20 or James 5: 7-9

Matthew 15: 32-39 or John 4: 31-38

#### b. The Bread of Life

Exodus 16: 11-15

Psalm 104: 10-15

2 Corinthians 9: 6-11

John 6: 28-35

#### The Thanksgiving

Blessed are you, Lord God of all creation:  
through your goodness we have this bread to offer,

which earth has given and human hands have made.

It will become for us the bread of life.

**Blessed be God for ever.**

Blessed are you, Lord God of all creation:  
through your goodness we have this wine to offer,

fruit of the vine and work of human hands.

It will become our spiritual drink.

**Blessed be God for ever.**

#### Prayer over the gifts – Lammas wheat, flour and loaf

Blessed are you, Lord God of all creation.

**Blessed are you, Lord God of all creation.**

God you are blessed indeed, the Lord of all life.

We cannot add or take away from your love.  
You stand in, above and below all your created order,

before and behind us, the source of life itself,

giving breath to all that lives.

We greet you Lord God, and gather in your light and grace.  
**Blessed are you, Lord God of all creation.**

Through your goodness we have this bread to offer.

Wonderful order, manifest in creation, your careful design,

the Goodness of your earth, bound up in wheat:

the sun and rain in divine proportion

gives us this golden grain to grind to the finest flour.  
Mineral salt, sourced from earth and sea, flavours and colours;  
Yeast, the natural leaven, living breath of the bread,

creates by its deathnew life of goodness and nourishment.  
Water, your gift for life to refresh parched bodies,

enlivens and binds the dough, as you bring life to the soul.

We greet you Lord God and give thanks for your life-giving gifts.  
**Blessed are you, Lord God of all creation.**

Through your goodness we have this bread to offer

Which earth has given and human hands have made.

Lord, hands you crafted work and knead,

skilled in the ancient art;

knowledge gained from your lifegiving natural processes

used for the nurture of body and spirit,

form bread from finest wheat,

which earth gave of her best, by your grace.

We greet you Lord God, and with grain we craft our daily bread.

**Blessed are you, Lord God of all Creation.**

Through your goodness we have this bread to offer  
Which earth has given and human hands have made  
It will become for us the Bread of Life.

In recognition of your many gifts we set aside a portion,

enough to taste the goodness of creation,

in which you are intrinsically involved,

from the very first seed.

In this knowledge all bread is blessed:

sliced white in a lunch box,

wholegrain and seed bread in careful plait,

rolls, split top, French loaf or cob. [[1]](#footnote-1)

All comes from you,

yet in and through this bread, this gift,

this offering of your gift, returned transformed

in gratitude for your works, we ask again a blessing,

a blessing on what has been formed and set apart,

a blessing on those gathered here

who feed and find life from this loaf.

In doing this, we praise your creative power:

as Christ broke bread and ate with his friends,

we follow his example, obey his command

and, with all you call, we share the Bread of Life.

Blessed are you, Lord God of all Creation.  
Through your goodness we have this bread to offer

Which earth has given and human hands have made  
It will become for us the Bread of Life.  
**Blessed be God for ever.**

The Eucharistic Prayer follows.

#### Post-communion Prayer

Lord God,

your Son made himself known

to his disciples in the breaking of bread:  
open the eyes of our faith,

that we may see him in his redeeming work,

who is alive and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,

one God, now and for ever.

**Amen.**

## 5 Harvest Festival

### a. Harvest online service

#### Greeting

Although we can’t see each other, we gather together in our homes  
in the name of God:  
Father, Son and Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

If we have a candle, we light it now  
to remind us that the Light of Christ is with us

and will never be extinguished.

#### Opening Prayer

Come, Lord, fill the hearts of your faithful people

and kindle within us the fire of your love. **Amen.**

#### Hymn

#### Collect for Harvest Festival

Lord of all creation,  
you give us the fruits of the earth in their season

and crown the year with your goodness:

help us so to receive your gifts with thankful hearts

that we may use them to your glory,

for the relief of those in want and to meet our daily needs;  
through Jesus Christ the Bread of life,  
who is alive and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and for ever. **Amen**.

#### The Readings

#### The Old Testament Reading

After the reading:

This is the word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

#### Psalm

#### 

#### New Testament Reading

After the reading:

This is the word of the Lord.  
**Thanks be to God.**

#### The Gospel

Listen to the gospel of Christ according to…

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

After the Gospel:

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

#### The Sermon

#### A Statement of Faith

Together we declare our faith in God:

**We believe in God the Father,  
from whom every family  
in heaven and on earth is named.  
We believe in God the Son,  
who lives in our hearts through faith,**

**and fills us with his love.**

**We believe in God the Holy Spirit,  
who strengthens us with power from on high.  
We believe in one God:  
Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Amen.**

#### Intercessions

This the day when we say, ‘Thank you’ to God

and to all those who meet our daily needs.

So to the words, ‘Creating and sustaining God’ please respond  
‘with wonder in our hearts, we thank you.’

Creator and sustainer of all,

at this harvest season we gather as your people

to offer you our heartfelt thanks and praise.

We praise you for the bounty and variety of your creation,

the succession of the seasons,

the productiveness of the soil,

the harvest of land and sea.

Creating and sustaining God

**with wonder in our hearts, we thank you.**

Thank you for inviting us to be co-creators with you,

developing new strains of plants,

controlling pests and diseases,

carefully enhancing the fertility of the land,

growing flowers, fruit and vegetables in the garden and allotment,

trying out new recipes in the kitchen.

We give you thanks for all who play their part

in producing, harvesting, preparing and distributing

the varied and delicious food we eat.

Creating and sustaining God

**with wonder in our hearts, we thank you.**

We give thanks and pray for those involved in bringing food to our tables:

for farmers and fishermen,

their families and communities and all who depend on them;

for farmers struggling to cope with the effects of diseased livestock

and for those who have had to produce and harvest in poor conditions;

for livestock hauliers and auctioneers,

for vets and agricultural advisers;

for those who maintain high standards of animal husbandry,

but are undercut by unfair competition

and have undergone great suffering.

Creating and sustaining God  
**with wonder in our hearts, we thank you.**

Lord God, our Creator,

make us keenly aware of all the blessings in our rich lives.

Help us to be good stewards of our time

by putting prayer first in our lives.

Help us to be good stewards of our talents

by putting ourselves at the service of each other.

Help us to be good stewards of our treasure

by sharing our financial means to build up our Church

and help those in need.

Make your love the foundation of our lives.

May our love for you express itself

through our eagerness to use our time,

our talents and our resources to serve you,

your Church and one another.

Creating and sustaining God

**with wonder in our hearts, we thank you.**

Heavenly Father,

we recognise your Spirit as the gardener of our souls,

so we dare to ask that you would prune us

and clear away the dead growth of the past;

break up the hard clods of routine and habit;

stir in the rich compost of vision and challenge,

bury deep into our souls the implanted Word;

cultivate, water and tend our hearts,

until new life buds and opens and flowers.

May we indeed bloom where you have planted us,

at this time and in this place.

Creating and sustaining God

**with wonder in our hearts, we thank you.**

A time of silent prayer.

Gathering our prayers together, united we pray

**Our Father, who art in heaven..... / Our Father in heaven…**

#### Hymn

#### Blessing

The love of God has been poured into our hearts

through the Holy Spirit he has given us;

and now Lord, bless us and keep us,  
make your face shine upon us and be gracious to us.  
Lord look kindly on us

and give us peace. **Amen.**

May we go forth into our lives

surrounded by the love of God,  
the peace of Christ,  
and in the power of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

#### Final music

Participants are invited to send an email or text following the service as a gesture of peace and goodwill.

### b. Eucharistic Resources: Harvest Festival

#### Introduction to Confession

God calls us to be stewards of the earth

and to care for creation.

Genesis 1.28-29

Mindful of our careless use of the earth’s resources,

let us ask the Lord for mercy and forgiveness.

Silence

Or:

The eyes of all look to you, O Lord,

and you give them their food in due season.

Psalm 145.16

In the light of God’s abundant provision,

let us bring to the Lord our sins of ingratitude,

asking for his mercy.

Silence

#### Kyries

Lord Jesus,

of your fullness all have received, grace upon grace.

John 1.16

Lord, have mercy.

**Lord, have mercy.**

Silence.

Lord Jesus,

you call us to give thanks to the Father

Christ, have mercy.

**Christ, have mercy.**

Silence.

Lord Jesus, you invite us to share your abundance,

Lord, have mercy.

**Lord, have mercy.**

Silence

#### Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia.

I will always give thanks to the Lord,

his praise shall ever be in my mouth.

Psalm 34.1

**Alleluia.**

Alleluia, alleluia.

The harvest is plentiful and the labourers are few,

therefore pray that the Lord of the harvest

may send out labourers into his harvest.

Luke 10.2

**Alleluia.**

#### Introduction to the Peace

The fruits of the Spirit are love, joy, peace,

patience, kindness, generosity,

faithfulness, gentleness and self-control.

Galatians 5.22

Or:

As long as the earth endures,

seedtime and harvest,

cold and heat,

summer and winter,

day and night,

shall not cease.  

Genesis 8. 22

#### Prayer over the gifts

Generous God,

your Son Jesus Christ is the living bread which came down from heaven

and gives life to the world;

receive these gifts through which you call us to be one in you.

In praise and thanksgiving for your inestimable gifts,

may we live for ever, sharing the eternal banquet of heaven,

through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

John 6.51

#### Prefaces

#### Simple

Who revealed himself as the true vine

and calls us, as his disciples, to go and bear fruit,

fruit that will last,

commanding us to love one another.

John 15.1, 16-17

Or:

#### Extended Preface

We give you thanks that in your faithful love

you feed us in word and sacrament.

As this broken bread was once scattered on the mountains,

and after it had been brought together became one,

so may your Church be gathered together

from the ends of the earth into your kingdom.

Didache 9.4

When the disciples collected the twelve baskets of fragments,

from your abundance all had enough and to spare.

Matthew 14.20

Rejoicing in your boundless provision, we praise you for your grace,

and offer our sacrifice of thanksgiving and praise.

#### Blessings

May God our Creator,

who clothes the lilies and feeds the birds of the sky,

bestow upon you his care

and increase the harvest of your righteousness...

Matthew 6.25-33

Or:

God the Father, who created the world,

give you grace to be wise stewards of his creation.

**Amen.**

God the Son, who redeemed the world,

inspire you to go out as labourers into his harvest.

**Amen.**

God the Holy Spirit, whose breath fills the whole of creation,

help you to bear his fruits of love, joy and peace.

**Amen.**

And the blessing...

#### Blessing of Harvest Gifts

Yours, Lord, is the greatness, the power,

the glory, the splendour and the majesty:

for all things come from you

and of your own do we give you.

Bless these harvest gifts,

the offerings of thankful hearts,

and use them to your glory,

for the relief of want and suffering

and the care of those in need

in the name of the Father,

and of the Son,

and of the Holy Spirit.

**Amen.**

### c. Additional Non-Eucharistic Harvest Thanksgiving Resources

#### Introduction to Confession

Let us confess our forgetfulness of the needs of the poor

and repent of the ways in which we waste the resources of the world. CWTS, p. 623

#### Kyries

The Lord executes justice for the oppressed;

and gives food to the hungry.

Lord, have mercy.

**Lord, have mercy.**

The Lord sets the prisoners free;

the Lord opens the eyes of the blind.

Christ, have mercy.

**Christ, have mercy.**

The Lord watches over the strangers;

he upholds the orphan and widow.

Lord, have mercy.

**Lord, have mercy.**

Psalm 146

Or:

God has blessed us:  
but still God’s children go hungry.

Lord, have mercy.

**Lord, have mercy.**

God has blessed us:  
but still the poor cry out for justice.

Christ, have mercy.

**Christ, have mercy.**

God has blessed us,

but still we see inequality and oppression in the earth.

Lord, have mercy.

**Lord, have mercy.**

CWTS, p. 623

Or:

We confess to you

our lack of care for the world you have given us.

Lord, have mercy.

**Lord, have mercy.**

We confess to you

our selfishness in not sharing the earth’s bounty fairly.

Christ, have mercy.

**Christ, have mercy.**

We confess to you

our failure to protect resources for others.

Lord, have mercy.

**Lord, have mercy.**

PW, p. 91.

#### Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia.

Lift up your eyes and see that the fields are ripe for harvesting.

Gather the fruit for eternal life.

John 4.35

**Alleluia.**

CWTS, p. 625

#### A***cclamations***

**The earth has yielded its increase;**

**God, our God, has blessed us.**

You visit the earth and water it;

**you greatly enrich it.**

You soften the earth with showers;

**and bless its growth.**

You crown the year with your bounty;

and your paths overflow with plenty.

The meadows clothe themselves with flocks;

**the valleys stand so thick with corn,**

**they shout and sing together for joy.**

**The earth has yielded its harvest.**

**God, our God, has blessed us.**

Psalm 67.6, 65.9-13

#### Short passages of Scripture

The earth has yielded its increase:

God, our God has blessed us.

Psalm 67:6

O give thanks to the Lord, for he is gracious,

for his steadfast love endures for ever.

Psalm 107: 1

As long as the earth endures,

seedtime and harvest,

cold and heat,

summer and winter,

day and night

shall not cease.

Genesis 8: 22

The earth is filled with the gifts of the Lord:

wine and oil and bread,

to strengthen us and cheer our hearts.

Psalm 104. 13-15

He who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food

will supply and multiply your seed for sowing

and increase the harvest of your righteousness

2 Cor. 9.10

The harvest is plentiful, but the labourers are few;

therefore ask the Lord of the harvest to send labourers into his harvest.

Matthew 9.37-38

#### Thanksgiving

Let us give thanks to God.

God of all peoples of the earth,

we offer our thanksgiving:

for the colour and forms of your creation

and our place within it;

We bring our thanks, good Lord:  
**your mercy endures for ever**.

For our daily food,

and for those whose work and skill

bring your good gifts to us;

We bring our thanks, good Lord:

**your mercy endures for ever.**

For the gifts and graces inspired in human minds and hearts;

for insight and imagination,

for the skills of research

which bring healing and fulfilment to the lives of many;

We bring our thanks, good Lord:  
**your mercy endures for ever.**

For the light and shades of the changing seasons,

and their variety and dependability;

for new life and growth out of barrenness and decay;

We bring our thanks, good Lord:  
**your mercy endures for ever.**

For new hope and strength in our communities,

especially in your Church and among all you call to serve you;

We bring our thanks, good Lord;

**your mercy endures for ever.**

For all in whose lives we see the gifts of grace;

goodness, kindness, gentleness, patience and humility,

all the fruits of the Spirit;

Galatians 5:22-23

We bring our thanks, good Lord:  
**your mercy endures for ever.**

For the life we have been given,

and for all those whom God has given us to share it;

We bring our thanks, good Lord:

**your mercy endures for ever.**

KC, alt.

***Intercessions***

Let us pray to God, the Lord of the harvest,

that he will bring to fruition all that he desires for his creation.

Lord of creation,

we see that the fields of the world are already white for harvest:   
we pray for your Church,

that it may be spiritually equipped to gather fruit for eternal life.

Lord of the harvest,

**in your mercy hear us.**

You have created the universe by your eternal Word,

and have blessed humankind in giving us dominion over the earth:  
we pray for the world,

that we may share and conserve its resources,

and live in reverence for the creation

and in harmony with one another.

Lord of the harvest,

**in your mercy hear us.**

Your Son has promised that the Spirit will lead us into all truth:   
we pray for the community in which you have set us,

for one another and for ourselves,

that we may bring forth the fruit of the Spirit

in love and joy and peace.

Lord of the harvest,

**in your mercy hear us.**

You have given the human race a rich land,

a land of streams and springs, wheat and barley,

vines and oil and honey,

yet we have made by sin a world of suffering and sorrow:  
we pray for those who bear the weight of affliction,

that they may come to share the life of wholeness and plenty.

Lord of the harvest,

**in your mercy hear us.**

Your Son Jesus Christ is the first-fruits of the resurrection

And will reap the harvest of the dead

at the end of time:   
we pray for all those who have gone before us in his peace,

that he will bring safely home all whom you have given him

and gather us all to share together

in the banquet of the age to come.

Lord of the harvest,

**in your mercy hear us.**

Merciful Father,

**accept these prayers**

**for the sake of your Son**

**our Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen.**

ECY pp. 155, 156 alt

***Blessing***

May God our creator,

who clothes the lilies and feeds the birds of the air,

bestow on you his care

and increase the harvest of your righteousness;

Matthew 6:25-33

and the blessing……….

God the Father, who created the world,

give you grace to be wise stewards of his creation.

**Amen.**

God the Son, who redeemed the world,

inspire you to go out as labourers into his harvest.

**Amen.**

God the Holy Spirit, whose breath fills the whole of creation,

help you to bear his fruits of love, joy and peace.

**Amen.**

And the blessing……

Go in peace.

Freely you have received, freely give:

**in the name of Christ. Amen.**

*Matthew 10.8*

Go in peace.

Tend the earth,

care for God’s creation,

and bring forth the fruits of the Spirit.

**Thanks be to God.**

### d. A Non-eucharistic Online Service for a Community Harvest Festival

#### Greeting

Although we can’t see each other, we gather together in our homes  
in the name of God,  
Father, Son and Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

If we have a candle, we light it now  
to remind us that the Light of Christ is with us

and will never be extinguished.

#### Opening Prayer

Come, Lord, fill the hearts of your faithful people

and kindle within us the fire of your love. **Amen.**

#### Hymn

#### Collect for Harvest Festival

Lord of all creation,  
you give us the fruits of the earth in their season

and crown the year with your goodness:

help us so to receive your gifts with thankful hearts

that we may use them to your glory,

for the relief of those in want and to meet our daily needs;  
through Jesus Christ the Bread of life,  
who is alive and reigns with you

in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and for ever. **Amen**.

#### Readings

#### The Old Testament Reading

After the reading:

This is the word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

#### Psalm

#### New Testament Reading

After the reading:

This is the word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

#### The Gospel

Listen to the gospel of Christ according to Saint …

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

After the Gospel:

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

#### The Sermon

#### A Statement of Faith

**We believe in God the Father,  
from whom every family  
in heaven and on earth is named.  
We believe in God the Son,  
who lives in our hearts through faith,**

**and fills us with his love.**

**We believe in God the Holy Spirit,  
who strengthens us  
with power from on high.  
We believe in one God;  
Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Amen.**

#### Sign of peace

We are all one in Christ Jesus.  
We belong to him through faith,  
heirs of the promise of the Spirit of peace.

The peace of the Lord be with us always.

#### Prayers

This the day when we say, ‘Thank you’ to God

and to all those who meet our daily needs.

God said, ‘Let there be light.’

*Genesis 1:3*

Eternal God, we thank you for your light and your truth.

We praise you for your fatherly care

in creating a universe which proclaims your glory.

Inspire us to worship you, the creator of all,

and let your light shine upon our world.

Creating and sustaining God

**with wonder in our hearts, we thank you.**

God said, ‘Let there be a firmament in the midst of the heavens.’

*Genesis 1:6*

We thank you for the vastness of the universe and the mysteries of space.

We pray for all scientists and astronomers

who extend the boundaries of our knowledge.

As we contemplate the wonder of the heavens,

confirm us in the truth

that every human being is known and loved by you.

Creating and sustaining God

**with wonder in our hearts, we thank you.**

God said, ‘Let the waters be gathered together, and let dry land appear.’

Genesis 1:9

We thank you for the beauty of the earth,

for the diversity of land and sea,

for the resources of the earth.

Give us the will to cherish this planet

and to use its riches for the good and welfare of all.

Creating and sustaining God

**with wonder in our hearts, we thank you.**

God said, ‘Let there be lights in the sky to separate the day and the night.’

Genesis 1:14

We thank you for the warmth of the sun,

the light of the moon, the glory of the stars.

We praise you for the formations of clouds,

the radiance of dawn and sunset.

Save us from wasting or abusing

the energy on which all life depends.

Open our eyes to behold your beauty,

and our lips to praise your name.

Creating and sustaining God

**with wonder in our hearts, we thank you.**

God said, ‘Let the waters bring forth living creatures

and let birds fly across the sky.’

Genesis 1:20

We thank you for the teeming life of the seas,

and the flight of the birds.

Help us to protect the environment

that all life may flourish.

Creating and sustaining God

**with wonder in our hearts, we thank you.**

God said, ‘Let the earth bring forth living creatures of every kind.’

Genesis 1:24

We rejoice in the variety of animal life.

Grant us grace to treat all animals with respect and care;

to protect endangered species,

to preserve the variety of habitats,

and to honour the delicate balance of nature.

Creating and sustaining God

**with wonder in our hearts, we thank you.**

God said, ‘Let us create human beings in our own image.’

Genesis 1:26

We pray for the human family.

We exult in its diversity and giftedness,

we repent of its sins, divisions and violence.

By the power of your Spirit, restore your image within us,

through Christ who came to remake us by his death and resurrection.

Creating and sustaining God

**with wonder in our hearts, we thank you.**

Heavenly Father, you have filled the world with beauty:

open our eyes to behold your gracious hand in all your works;

that, rejoicing in your whole creation,

and giving thanks for the harvest,

we may learn to serve you with gladness;

we ask this through Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

A time of silent prayer.

Gathering our prayers together, united we pray  
**Our Father, who art in heaven..... / Our Father in Heaven…**

#### Hymn

#### Final prayer

The love of God has been poured into our hearts

through the Holy Spirit he has given us; Romans 5:5

and now Lord, bless us and keep us,  
make your face shine upon us and be gracious to us.  
Lord look kindly on us

and give us peace. **Amen.** Numbers 6:24-26

May we go forth into our lives

surrounded by the love of God,  
the peace of Christ,  
and in the power of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

#### Final music

Participants are invited to send an email or text following the service as a gesture of peace and goodwill.

# B STEWARDSHIP OF THE ENVIRONMENT

## 1 Environment Resources

### a. Environment Eucharistic Resources

#### Kyries

For those times when we have neglected the voiceless,

Lord, have mercy.

**Lord, have mercy.**

For those times when our relationship with creation becomes broken.

Christ, have mercy.

**Christ, have mercy.**

For those times when we have been unwilling to face problems in this world.

Lord, have mercy.

**Lord, have mercy.**

Or:

For those times when we have failed to act with compassion.

Lord, have mercy.

**Lord, have mercy.**

For those times when we have taken more than our fair share.

Christ, have mercy.

**Christ, have mercy.**

For those times when we have forgotten our duty to the earth.

Lord, have mercy.

**Lord, have mercy**

#### Preface

Who chose to give to the last and the least the greatest gifts of the kingdom

in order that the whole earth might sing with one voice…

Whose kingdom is built on compassion and forgiveness.

Who stood alongside the voiceless and heard the cry of the earth.

Who rejoices over the repentant…

Who invites us to be co-creators

to bind on earth the things of the kingdom of heaven

that we might rejoice in a world made whole…

### b. Eucharist for Stewardship of the Environment

#### Gathering

In the name of the Father, and of the Son,  
and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

Grace and peace be with you

**and keep you in the love of Christ.**

Lord, fill us with the knowledge of your will

**that we may bear fruit in every good work.**

#### Prayer of Preparation

**Heavenly Father,**

**all hearts are open to you,**

**no secrets are hidden from you;**

**purify us with the fire of your Holy Spirit**

**that we may love and worship you faithfully,**

**through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen**

#### Prayers of Penitence

God so loved the world  
that he gave his only Son Jesus Christ

to save us from our sins,  
to be our advocate in heaven,  
and to bring us to eternal life. CW

We confess our own sin, and the sins of humanity,

in the misuse of God’s creation.

God our Father;  
we are sorry for the times

when we have used your gifts carelessly,

and acted ungratefully.

Hear our prayer, and in your mercy:

**forgive us and help us.**

We enjoy the fruits and gifts of the harvest,

but sometimes forget that you are the giver.

Father, in your mercy:

**forgive us and help us.**

We belong to communities that are full and satisfied,

but ignore those who are hungry,

Father, in your mercy:  
**forgive us and help us.**

We are thoughtless,  
and neglect our duty to care for the world you have made.

Father, in your mercy:  
**forgive us and help us.**

We store up goods for ourselves alone,

as if there were no God and no heaven.

Father, in your mercy:  
**forgive us and help us.**

The Lord enrich you with his grace,  
and nourish you with his blessing;  
the Lord defend you in trouble and keep you from all evil;

the Lord accept your prayers,  
and absolve you from your offences,  
for the sake of Jesus Christ, our Saviour.

**Amen.**

#### The Gloria

**Glory to God in the highest,  
and peace to his people on earth.  
Lord God, heavenly King,  
almighty God and Father,  
we worship you, we give you thanks,  
we praise you for your glory.**

**Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, Lord God, Lamb of God,  
you take away the sin of the world:  
have mercy on us;  
you are seated at the right hand of the Father: receive our prayer.**

**For you alone are the Holy One,  
you alone are the Lord,  
you alone are the Most High,**

**Jesus Christ,**

**with the Holy Spirit,  
in the glory of God the Father.**

**Amen.**

Blessed are you, Lord God of all creation,

how majestic is your name in all the earth;

you dry up the green tree and make the dry tree flourish;

in your hand is the life of every living thing  
and the breath of every human being; *Ezekiel 17:24*

As your Son made the multitude to sit down on the green grass

and fed them with the bread of life, *John 6.10*

make us to lie down in green pastures  
and lead us beside still waters; *Psalm 23.2*  
so that, like a tree planted by water,  
which does not fear the heat but whose leaves shall stay green, *Jeremiah 17.8*

we may be refreshed and sustained in you,   
and honour the everlasting covenant  
you have established with your creation,  
for you have seen that it is very good. *Genesis 1.31*  
Blessed be God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit.  
**Blessed be God forever.**

#### The Liturgy of the Word

#### A Reading from the Old Testament

After the reading:

This is the word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

#### Psalm

#### A Reading from the New Testament.

After the reading:

This is the word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

#### The Gospel Reading

Listen to the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to *…***Glory to you, O Lord.**

After the Gospel:

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

#### The Sermon

#### The Nicene Creed

**We believe in one God,  
the Father, the almighty,**

**maker of heaven and earth,**

**of all that is, seen and unseen.  
We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,**

**the only Son of God,**

**eternally begotten of the Father,**

**God from God,  
Light from Light,**

**true God from true God,  
begotten, not made,  
of one Being with the Father.  
Through him all things were made.**

**For us and for our salvation  
he came down from heaven;  
by the power of the Holy Spirit  
he became incarnate from the Virgin Mary,  
and was made man.  
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;  
he suffered death and was buried.  
On the third day he rose again  
in accordance with the Scriptures;  
he ascended into heaven  
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.  
He will come again in glory  
to judge the living and the dead,  
and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the Lord, the giver of life,  
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,  
who with the Father and the Son  
is worshipped and glorified,  
who has spoken through the prophets.**

**We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.**

**We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.**

**We look for the resurrection of the dead,  
and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

Act of Eco Commitment A Rocha

When God created the heavens and the earth, he declared that it was good.

*Genesis 1.31*

As we offer our sacrifice of prayer and thanksgiving,  
we pledge that we will honour the everlasting covenant

between God, the creator of all things who loves the world,

and the creation which responds in joyful praise.

Let us pray.

Lord God,  
the earth is yours and all that is in it,  
the world, and those who live in it;  
hear our prayer, accept our service and receive our pledge:

May our *worship* honour your generous gifts;

may we explore together our responsibilities

to the creation of which we are a part,

in preaching and teaching, in prayer and praise:  
**for the earth is yours and all that is in it.**

May our *church buildings* be houses of prayer,

temples to your glory,

and signs of the renewing power of your grace

to sustain and refresh all life;  
may our use and development of the resources we have inherited

be an example of careful nurturing of discipleship and fruitful witness:  
**for the earth is yours and all that is in it.**

May we allow the *land* we occupy to flourish in your care;

may we share and protect both open space and managed earth,

and build community with and through the land and all it sustains:  
**for the earth is yours and all that is in it.**

May we live as the body of Christ,

fostering relationships within our *local and global communities*,

and raising awareness of how our actions

affect our brothers and sisters across the world,

having a particular care for the poor and vulnerable:

for the earth is yours and all that is in it.

May we show in our *lives* what we claim in our words,

revealing in our discipleship our love for you,

for each other, and for your world,

following your command to bear fruit that will last:  
**for the earth is yours and all that is in it.**

**Lord God,  
we pledge ourselves to your service**

**in caring for your creation,**

**that your kingdom may grow**

**from the seed of hope  
into a tree of righteousness**

**and justice for the world,  
and the creation itself**

**will be set free from its bondage to decay**

**and will obtain the freedom of the glory**

**of the children of God,**

**through Jesus Christ our Lord.  
Amen.**

Prayers of thanksgiving and intercession may follow, ending with:

O Lord our God,

you brought your people into a good land,  
and send showers of blessing

that the earth shall yield its increase;

flourish within us your gift of faith  
that, in our worship, our churches,

our communities, and our lives,

we may honour and renew your creation  
and join in obedience

with the wind and the waters,  
the wilderness and the desert,  
the birds of the air and the fish of the sea,  
and all created things to give glory and praise  
to the image of the invisible God,  
the first born of all creation, Colossians 1:15  
Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,  
who is alive and reigns with you  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and for ever.

**Amen.**

#### The Peace

You shall go out in joy and be led back in peace;  
the mountains and the hills before you shall burst into song,

and all the trees of the field shall clap their hands.

Isaiah 55.12

The peace of the Lord be always with you

**and also with you.**

Let us offer one another the words of peace.

**The peace of the Lord be with you, my friends in Christ**

Blessed are you, Lord, God of all creation.

Through your goodness we have this bread to offer,

which earth has given and human hands have made.

It will become for us the bread of life.  
**Blessed be God for ever.**

Blessed are you, Lord, God of all creation.

Through your goodness we have this wine to offer,

fruit of the vine and work of human hands.  
It will become our spiritual drink.  
**Blessed be God for ever**.

#### The Eucharistic Prayer

The Lord be with you

**and also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them up to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right to give thanks and praise.**

And now we give you thanks  
because all things are of your making,  
all times and seasons obey your laws,  
but you have chosen to create us in your own image,

setting us over the whole world in all its wonder.

You have made us stewards of your creation,  
to praise you day by day  
for the marvels of your wisdom and power;  
so earth unites with heaven  
to sing the new song of creation:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,**

**heaven and earth are full of your glory.  
Hosanna in the highest.**

**Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.**

**Hosanna in the highest.**

Hear us, heavenly Father,  
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord.

Through him accept our sacrifice of praise,

and grant that, by the power of your Spirit,

these gifts of bread and wine

may be for us his body and his blood;

who in the same night that he was betrayed  
took bread and gave you thanks;  
he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying,

Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you.

Do this in remembrance of me.

In the same way, after supper,  
he took the cup and gave you thanks;  
he gave it to them, saying,  
Drink from this, all of you;  
for this is my blood of the new covenant

which is shed for you and for many  
for the forgiveness of sins.  
Do this, as often as you drink it,  
in remembrance of me.

Let us proclaim the mystery of faith:

**Christ has died,**

**Christ is risen;**

**Christ will come again.**

Therefore, Father,  
remembering the saving death and resurrection of your Son

we offer to you in thanksgiving

this bread and this cup, your gifts to us,  
and we thank you for counting us worthy

to stand in your presence and serve you.  
Send your Holy Spirit upon all of us

who share this bread and this cup.  
Strengthen our faith,

make us one and welcome us and all your people  
into the glorious kingdom of your Son.  
Through him, with him, in him,

in the unity of the Holy Spirit  
all honour and glory are yours, almighty Father,  
for ever and ever. **Amen.**

Silence.

Filled with awe at the wonders and works of God,

as our Saviour taught us, so we pray

**Our Father who art in heaven…**

Or:

**Our Father in heaven…**

#### Breaking of the Bread

We break this bread to share in the body of Christ.

**Though we are many, we are one body, for we all share in one bread.**

**Lamb of God,**

**you take away the sin of the world:**

**have mercy on us.**

**Lamb of God,**

**you take away the sin of the world:**

**have mercy on us.**

**Lamb of God,**

**you take away the sin of the world:**

**grant us peace.**

The body of Christ keep you in eternal life. **Amen.**

The blood of Christ keep you in eternal life. **Amen.**

#### The Sending Out

Give thanks to the Lord for he is gracious:

**his love is everlasting.**

***Prayer after Communion***

Creator God,  
you give seed for us to sow,

and bread for us to eat;  
make us thankful for what we have received

and generous in supplying the needs of others

so all the world may give you thanks and glory,

through Jesus Christ our Lord.

The Lord be with you:

**and also with you.**

#### The Blessing

God the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ  
who is the source of all goodness and growth,  
pour out his blessing upon all things created,  
and upon you his children,  
that you may use his gifts to his glory

and for the welfare of all peoples;

and the blessing of God almighty,  
the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit,  
be among you and remain with you always. **Amen.**

#### The Dismissal

Tend the earth, care for God’s good creation,

and bring forth the fruits of righteousness.

Go in the peace of Christ.  
**Thanks be to God.**

### c. Prayers for the Environment

#### i. Waiting on God – acting for the planet

Creator God - We wait in spring for the return of the birds, the pushing through of the bulbs, the buzz of the first bee. We wait for soft rain and sunny days, rainbows and gentle tides. We wait for the first change from naked to covered trees, heavy with blossom.

**We wait for you and we act for the planet.**

Creator God – We wait for lazy summers, with golden crops, dripping honey flowering meadows. We wait for butterflies and swifts, the drone of insects. We wait for the thunderstorms after a sunny day, and the puddles drying up reflecting the rainbow.

**We wait for you and we act for the planet.**

Creator God – We wait for the colours to fade in autumn, grow crisp in the frost and drop. For the countryside to quieten, for the plants to go dormant and for the crops to be harvested. We wait for the sea to grow dark, and for the migration of the fish and birds.

**We wait for you and we act for the planet.**

Creator God – we wait for the turning of the year, the ground to grow brittle and to break underfoot. For the water to run clear, the icicles to drip, the frozen lakes to crackle underfoot. We wait for the land to sleep deeply and to regenerate, unhindered, and for the seasons to be restored.

**We wait for you and we act for the planet**.

LB

#### ii. Creationtide Intercessions

Lord of Creation,

the Earth is yours and all that dwells therein:

help us to be thankful for the beauty and abundance of your Creation;

thankful that all you make is good;

thankful that you sustain and order all things by your love.

Lord Jesus,

We thank you that by your life, death, and risen life

all things in heaven and earth are reconciled to God.

Help us your Church, as your body here on Earth,

to join your work with you for reconciliation.

Where we have responsibility over your creation

let it be exercised as You have shown,

in love and service, healing and restoration.

We pray for our Church leaders,

that they would be strengthened to serve you faithfully

and to lead your people wisely.

We pray for our Archbishop \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, and for our Bishop \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

Lord in your mercy:

**hear our prayer.**

Heavenly Father,

forgive us our misuse of creation,

our carelessness and destruction,

our covetousness and exploitation.

Help us so to live

that the gifts of Creation are available for all people

and for all future generations.

Bless the work of conservationists and environmentalists

in seeking to sustain your Creation.

Bless the work of farmers and growers;

guide them in right stewardship

of the land and animals for which they care.

Bless and guide the work of scientists and technologists,

that their gifts may be used for the benefit of all

and the healing of your Earth.

Bless those striving for a just enjoyment of the fruits of your earth.

We pray for just trade and economics,

help us to live with justice and generosity.

Lord in your mercy:

**hear our prayer.**

Holy Spirit,

Bring healing and wholeness to your world.

We bring to you all who suffer through the greed of others…

Bless and keep all people

who live in areas that have been despoiled or polluted,

bring to their lands healing and fruitfulness.

We pray for loved-ones who are suffering this day…

We pray for those recently departed, and for those that mourn them…

Help us in all that we do

to love and care for your world and all people

as you love us.

Merciful Father,

**accept these prayers**

**for the sake of your Son,**

**our Saviour, Jesus Christ. Amen.**

iii. A Christian prayer in union with creation

***(Pope Francis, from Laudato Si’)***

Father, we praise you with all your creatures.  
They came forth from your all-powerful hand;  
they are yours, filled with your presence and your tender love.

Praise be to you!

Son of God, Jesus,  
through you all things were made.  
You were formed in the womb of Mary our Mother,

you became part of this earth,  
and you gazed upon this world with human eyes.

Today you are alive in every creature  
in your risen glory.  
Praise be to you!

Holy Spirit, by your light  
you guide this world towards the Father’s love

and accompany creation as it groans in travail.

You also dwell in our hearts  
and you inspire us to do what is good.  
Praise be to you!

Triune Lord, wondrous community of infinite love,

teach us to contemplate you in the beauty of the universe,  
for all things speak of you.

Awaken our praise and thankfulness  
for every being that you have made.  
Give us the grace to feel profoundly joined to everything that is.

God of love, show us our place in this world  
as channels of your love  
for all the creatures of this earth,  
for not one of them is forgotten in your sight.

Enlighten those who possess power and money  
that they may avoid the sin of indifference,  
that they may love the common good, advance the weak,

and care for this world in which we live.

The poor and the earth are crying out.  
O Lord, seize us with your power and light,

help us to protect all life,  
to prepare for a better future,  
for the coming of your Kingdom  
of justice, peace, love and beauty.  
Praise be to you!

**Amen.**

## 2 Prayer in times of Agricultural Crisis

### a. For a specific agricultural crisis

God of compassion,

we rejoice in the unity that is at the heart of your creation;

look upon our land and heal it

and from………………..,

good Lord, deliver us.

As we stand before you in prayer for all who are suffering,

grant that your light may shine in their darkness,

and that we may bear one another’s burdens,

and so fulfil your law of love.

This we ask through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

CWTS, p. 633

### b For favourable weather in time of need

O God, heavenly Father, who by your Son Jesus Christ

has promised to all those who seek your kingdom and its righteousness

all things necessary to sustain their life:  
send us, we entreat you, in this time of need,

\* *such moderate rain and showers*

*\* such favourable weather*

that we may receive the fruits of the earth,

to our comfort, and to your honour;

through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

TEC, BCP. p. 828

## 3 Forest Church Resources

### a. Advent

We meet together in the name of our Creator God

who is Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

**Amen.**

Creator God, open our eyes to see the beauty around us,

open our ears to hear what the Spirit is saying

and open our hearts to share with others what we learn.

**Amen.**

Reading  
  
The Spirit and the bride say, ‘Come.’....  
**Amen. Come Lord Jesus.**

Revelation 22:17, 20

**Come Lord, come down.**

**Come in, come among us.  
Come as the wind to move us.**

**Come as the light to prove us.**

**Come as the night to rest us.**

**Come as the storm to test us.**

**Come as the sun to warm us.**

**Come as the stillness to calm us.**

**Come Lord, come down.  
Come in.  
Come among us.**

***Hymn***

The year is coming to a close and it seems that darkness is overpowering the light,

yet we know that light will return.

***Suggested reading: John 1.1-4***  
At the end of the reading:

**Thanks be to God**

We’ll only walk for 10 minutes or so today, but as you walk and notice what the twilight reveals, have these questions in mind...

Remember that the seeds for new life are already in the ground beneath our feet, just waiting.

What new idea is seeding itself within you this winter?

In which areas do you most need to grow?  
What does the seasonal cycle of renewal offer you? What do you most hope for?

(We light our candles)

***Hymn***

The light shines in the darkness

**and the darkness has not overcome it.**

John 1:5

***Final prayer and blessing***

Turner of seasons, it is your design that the dark days of winter  
shall be followed by the resurrection of spring;  
as our hearts grow wintery,  
may your true clarity germinate whatever will be born in us next season.

In your loving pattern, we are quickened and conceived,

as the long night looks for morning, so do we look to your mystery.

And now the blessing of the Creator God,

who is Father, Son and Holy Spirit,

be with you, those you love and those you pray for,  
this night and forever. **Amen**.

### b. Epiphanytide

We meet together in the name of our Creator God

who is Father, Son and Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

Creator God,

open our eyes to see the beauty around us,

open our ears to hear what the Spirit is saying

and open our hearts to share with others what we learn. **Amen.**

#### Reading

**May none of God’s wonderful works keep silence,**

**night or morning.  
Bright stars, high mountains,**

**the depths of the seas, sources of rushing rivers:  
may all these break into song**

**as we sing to Father, Son and Holy Spirit.  
May all the angels in the heavens reply:**

**Amen. Amen. Amen.  
Power, praise, honour,**

**eternal glory to God,**

**the only Giver of grace.**

**Amen. Amen. Amen.**

***Hymn***

***Y Newydd/The News***  by Nesta Wyn Jones

When the baby’s scream came from the manger

light came into the world of darkness.  
The luminous star melted  
As a drop disappearing in the dust.

Soon after the blessed birth

After the modest worshipping,

After the wise men had returned

Back a long way to their homes,

It was seen that there was an ember  
Asleep in the midst of the dry hay  
Which would burn the whole of history’s page –

-The spark in the person of Mary’s son.

The whole of the ancient world gutted -

Hope came in the wake of an innocent One,

And in the merciful sound of the flames

We heard the rustle of angels’ wings.

#### Walk

‘The luminous star melted as a drop disappearing in the dust’

O God, your name is blessed from the rising of the sun to its setting:  
fill our hearts with knowledge of yourself

and our mouths with your praise,

that from East to West all may sing your glory,  
with one voice and with one accord in Jesus Christ,  
your Son, our incarnate Lord.

**Amen**.

***Hymn***

#### Blessing

Deep peace, pure white of the moon to you.

**Deep peace, pure green of the grass to you.**

Deep peace, pure brown of the earth to you.

**Deep peace, pure grey of the dew to you.**

Deep peace, pure blue of the sky to you.

**Deep peace of the running wave to you.**

Deep peace of the flowing air to you.

**Deep peace of the quiet earth to you.**

Deep peace of the shining stars to you.

**Deep peace of the Son of Peace to you.**

And the blessing of God Almighty,

the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit

be with you now and for ever.

**Amen.**

### c. Remembrance / All Souls

We meet together in the name of the Creator God

who is Father, Son and Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

M: Welcome to you all and thank you for coming to Forest Church today.

P: But what is Forest Church?

M: Forest Church isn’t necessarily in a forest, but outdoors and connected with the natural world.

P: Lots of people say that they find God when they’re up a mountain, on the beach, by the sea, a river or a lake, or in a wood or forest, don’t they?

M: They do, so why not go to where so many people find God and explore and listen to what the God of Creation is saying to us through God’s Creation? To do that we’ll be taking a walk around the churchyard in a while.

P: So it’s like a nature walk?

M: Yes, but we’ll be walking with intent, really noticing our connection to Creation, noticing what we see, smell, touch and fee inside.

Today, because we’re in the churchyard where there are many graves, you might like to read the memorials, think of the person who has died and the family and friends who have been left behind to grieve. Look for the different types of crosses, the different wording on the graves, and the different types of lichen and moss that you can see growing on them. If you have a notebook and pencil with you, maybe you can draw what you see, write a poem, a psalm or a prayer.

##### **Hymn**

Before you walk, have these things in mind:

We have to face death, yet we can have hope in the resurrection…  
We remember our loved ones who have died and name them aloud...

We miss them because...

Remember that as nature dies back for the winter, that there is hope of the return of spring.

In a few months, we’ll see daffodils here and other wild flowers.

Think about what has happened for you over the last year…

At the discretion of the minister suitable psalm and reading may be used. Revelation 21.4 and Psalm 139 may be suitable here.

**Lord, our hearts are restless until we rest in you.**

***Walk***

***Meditation***

My God,  
I pray that I may know you and love you  
that I may rejoice in you.  
And if I may not do so fully in this life,  
let me go steadily on  
to the day when I come to that fullness.  
Let the knowledge of you increase in me here, and there let it come to its fullness.  
Let your love grow in me here,  
and there let it be fulfilled,  
so that here my joy may be in a great hope, and there in full reality.  
Lord,  
you have taught us to ask your Son,  
and you have promised that we shall receive, ‘that our joy may be full’.  
That which you counsel  
through our ‘wonderful counsellor’  
is what I am asking for.  
Let me receive  
that which you promised through your truth,  
‘that my joy may be full’.  
God of truth,  
I ask that I may receive,  
so that my joy may be full.  
Meanwhile, let my mind meditate on it,  
let my tongue speak of it,  
let my heart love it,  
let my mouth preach it,  
let my soul hunger for it,  
my flesh thirst for it,  
and my whole being desire it,  
until I enter into the joy of my Lord,  
who is God one and triune, blessed forever. **Amen.**

***Hymn***

***Final Prayer and Blessing***

There is no place where God is not,

wherever we go, there God is,  
and the blessing of the Creator God,

Father, Son and Holy Spirit,

be with you and those you love,

today and forever.

**Amen.**

### d. Harvest Festival

We meet together in the name of our Creator God

who is Father, Son and Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

#### Hymn

Creator God, open our eyes to see the beauty around us,

open our to hear what the Spirit is saying

and open our hearts to share with others what we learn. **Amen.**

Blessed are you, God of Creation,  
you have made all things for your glory.  
Bless these bulbs to your service and the good of all your people  
and grant that they will grow to trumpet your glory in the spring**.  
Bless the Lord, all that grows in the earth;**

**sing his praise and exalt him forever. Amen.**

At the river:

Stop for a while and listen.  
You might like to pray part of Psalm 42.....

Like the deer that yearns for running streams,  
so my soul is yearning for you, my God.  
My soul is thirsting for God, the God of my life.......

or:

Divine Creator, your love flows like the rushing river.

May the Spirit satisfy you with the water of grace.

On returning to a garden:

What has inspired you that you can thank God for?  
Why are you thankful for that?  
What else can you thank God for?  
What difference does the thing for which you’re thankful make to the world?

Was there anything you noticed in nature that was big or scary?

How does that make you feel?  
How would you hope God would help you?  
What good things would you hope God would remind you of from your trip into nature?

#### Meditation

Our God is the God of all,  
the God of heaven and earth,  
of the sea and of the rivers;  
the God of the sun and of the moon and of all the stars; the God of the lofty mountains  
and of the lowly valleys.  
He has his dwelling around heaven and earth,  
and sea, and all that is in them.  
He inspires all, he gives to all,  
he dominates all, he supports all,  
he lights the lights of the sun.  
he furnishes the light of the night,  
he has made springs in dry land......  
he is the God of heaven and earth,  
of seas and rivers, of sun, moon and stars,  
of the lofty mountain and the lowly valley,  
the God above heaven,  
and in heaven, and under heaven.  
**Our God is the God of all.**

#### Final prayer and blessing

There is no place where God is not,

wherever we go, there God is,  
and the blessing of the Creator God,

Father, Son and Holy Spirit,

be with you and those you love,

today and forever.

**Amen.**

## 4 The Blessing of Pets

**Notes**

Children, if present, can be invited to read the Lessons and the Psalm.

A brief homily can follow upon the reading of the Lessons. Let the mood of the animals be a guide to length. Something appropriately Franciscan and short might be ventured. After all the animals are not going to be impressed by even the most eloquent of preachers. The two hymns chosen here are, of course, by St. Francis.

You may wish to have some form of meal at the Church afterwards for the humans. Beforehand, you might go to local pet stores whose owners, usually, are more than happy to give "sample" packs of dog, cat and bird food, so the animals get treats also. (Give them verbal credit as you pass out the treats at the end of the blessing.)

The usual turnout is dogs, cats, birds and rats, but sometimes there are fish (do not touch the fish, just the water) gerbils, snakes, lizards, and from time to time, stuffed teddy bears. Bless (with the sign of the cross) both animal and owner.

#### The Call to Worship

Bless the Lord, all you his creatures,

**And let us remember his mercies.**

Let us pray.

Most high, omnipotent good Lord,

grant your people grace

to renounce gladly the vanities of this world;

that, following the way of blessed Francis,

we may delight in your whole creation with perfect joy.

God, you have made us and all living things.

You are even more wonderful than the things you have made.

We thank you for giving us these animals who bring us joy.

As you take care of us, so also we ask your help

that we might take care of these creatures

who trust us to look after them.

By doing this, we share in your own love for all creation.

We ask this in Jesus' name.

**Amen.**

#### Hymn

Or a suitable poem, such as: The Message, by R.S. Thomas, or another suitable poem may be read here

Or the following canticle:

#### The Canticle of Brother Sun (Prayer of Saint Francis)

*1* Most High, all / powerful • good / Lord, :

to you be praise, glory / honour / and all / blessing.

*2* Only to you, Most High, do / they be/long :

and no one is worthy to / call up/on your / name.

*3* May you be / praised, my Lord :

with / all – / your – / creatures,

*4* Especially / brother / sun :

through whom you / lighten • the / day – / for us.

‡*5* He is beautiful and radiant / with great / splendour :

he signifies / you – / O Most / High.

*6* Be / praised, my / Lord :

for / sister / moon • and the / stars;

*7* Clear and / precious • and / lovely :

they are / formed – / in – / heaven.

*8* Be / praised, my / Lord :

for / bro–/ther – / wind;

*9* And for air and clouds • clear / skies and • all / weathers :

by which you give / suste•nance / to your / creatures.

*10* Be / praised, my / Lord :

for / sis–/ter – / water,

*11* Who is very / useful • and / humble :

and / pre–/cious and / pure.

*12* Be / praised, my / Lord :

for / bro–/ther – / fire,

*13* By whom the night is i/llumined / for us :

he is beautiful and cheerful / full of / power and / strength.

*14* Be / praised, my / Lord :

for / our sister / mother / earth,

*15* Who su/stains and / governs us :

and produces diverse fruits and / coloured / flowers and / grass.

*16* Be / praised, my / Lord :

by all those who for/give for / love of / you,

*17* And who bear weakness and / tribu/lation :

Blessed are those who bear them in peace •

for you, Most / High, they / will be / crowned.

*18* Be / praised, my / Lord :

for our / sister • the / death • of the / body,

*19* From which no one living is / able • to / flee :

woe to those who are / dying • in / mortal / sin.

*20* Blessed are those who are found doing your most / holy / will :

for the second / death will / do them • no / harm.

*21* Praise and bless my Lord and / give him / thanks :

and / serve him • with / great hu/mility.

[No Doxology]

#### Reading

After the reading:

This is the word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

#### Psalm

#### Gospel

After the Gospel:

This is the Gospel of the Lord

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

#### Sermon

#### Intercessions

Let us give thanks to God our Father for all his gifts so freely bestowed upon us....

for the beauty and wonder of your creation, in earth and sky and sea;

**We thank you, Lord.**

For the richness of the mountains, the valleys, the rivers and sea;

**We thank you, Lord.**

For all that is gracious and kind in the lives of men and women;

**We thank you, Lord.**

For all creatures that breathe, and move, and have life;

**We thank you, Lord.**

For the songs of birds and the beauty of flowers and trees;

**We thank you, Lord.**

For the trust you have shown in giving into our care these, our pets;

**We thank you, Lord.**

That each pet here may be treasured with care;

**We pray to you, Lord.**

That we may love and honour all your God’s works;

**We pray to you, Lord.**

That we may continue to grow in our grateful enjoyment of your abundant creation;

To the honour and glory of your name, now and for ever,

**we pray to you, Lord.**

#### The Individual Blessing of each Pet

N. (Name of the animal, i.e. "Smokey", not cat/dog)

may you be blessed

in the Name of the Father,

and of the Son

and of the Holy Spirit.

May you and N. (the name of the owner)

enjoy life together

and find joy with the God who created you.

Alternative form - useful for those of other faith traditions

N., may you be blessed

in the Name of God who created you,

and may you and N.(the owner)

enjoy life together with our God.

#### Prayer

Most high, almighty Lord, our Creator,

yours are the honour, glory and praise!

To you alone do all things belong.

We thank you for giving us the animals,

birds and fish which fill your world.

May we think of you and thank you

when we play with and care for our pets.

We ask you, Lord, that we may be good to our pets always,

so that they too may be happy.

Help us always to take care of them

and also to take care of the world you have given us.

God, your world is glorious.

May we all come into your even greater world of the kingdom of heaven

where we shall see even more wonderful things

and where we shall live and love for ever.

This we ask to your eternal praise, and to our blessing. **Amen.**

#### Hymn

#### Blessing

## 5 Additional Environmental Resources

### a. Prayer for a World to Change

*When Jesussaw the crowds,* Matthew 5:1-12

*he went up the mountain*

*and after he sat down, his disciples came to him.*

*Then he began to speak.*

Blessed are the poor in spirit,

those who feel demoralised by disaster,

the down and the destitute who live with little hope.

The fearful and frightened,

their lives fractured by the thought of a future now undone.

For theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Blessed are those who mourn,

with loved ones lost to a warming globe.

The fire-struck and flooded,

the drought and disaster stricken

left to sift through hot dust,

waiting for a harvest,

for they will be comforted.

Blessed are the meek,

those who feel they have no power to bring change,

but who call from the streets and the side-lines,

halting traffic, hailing banners.

Placard waving protesters

sticking themselves to tarmac,

brushing off the belting sound of car horns,

and the bellowed anger of drivers,

for they will inherit the earth.

Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness,

for the unpredictable prophets

and the unexpected crowds who follow the voice of a child.

The scientists and conservationists,

the environmentalists and advocates,

the researchers and inventors

whose lifetimes’ labour brings a world of change.

Those whose soapy hands at oil slicks

pull apart the feathers and the plumes,

clearing the dark mess of human living,

trawling through the rubbish tip of our seas,

picking out plastic,

or planting trees across the landscape of our lives,

or trudging across the dry ground of Africa,

pushing back poachers, empty-handed.

Blessed are the merciful,

for those who rebuild communities destroyed,

who walk with the sanctuary seekers,

their backs turned to their sometime home,

their lives lit only by gunfire

and wrapped in the smoke of war.

The displaced and the disconnected,

the refugees who drag what they own behind them,

holding onto a future that is not yet their own

for they will receive mercy.

Blessed are the pure in heart,

for the young and the old standing head to shoulder

and stare into the future

with open eyes, with speechless mouths,

who wonder what the future holds,

for they will see God.

Blessed are the peacemakers,

those who stand between the disagreers and deniers

and the call-for-changers and the eco-warriors.

For politicians playing their part on the stage of the world,

for those whose words undermine injustice,

and all who speak to the gallows of gunfire,

beneath a sky of exploding shells,

they will be called children of God.

Blessed are those who are persecuted

for righteousness’ sake,

for scientists who voice had gone unheard

in the midst of denial and derision.

The truth-tellers, the challengers and changers

who stand tall against the giants of our world

with their gold-lined pockets,

for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Blessed are you when people revile you and persecute you

and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account,

those labelled as loony or misled,

the impractical and unimportant,

whose unpopular words move us,

drive us,

tell us,

that things must change.

Rejoice and be glad,

for your reward is great in heaven,

for in the same way they persecuted the prophets

who were before you.

### b. Prayer for the Environment

Lord God of the mountains and hills,

the oceans and forests,

the peaks and the plains,

the sky and the deep caverns of the earth,

your hand can be seen in all you have made.

We grieve for all that humanity

has done to harm the world you have created.

We pray for *COP…,*

for all the leaders and governments of the world,

and all who are called to action

to make bold change,

to save the world.

May we too, in our call to them,

commit ourselves to change the way we live,

to cherish the world you called us to care for.

Through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

### c. As the Crow Flies

Come to us, Lord,

as the crow flies.

Pay no attention to bends and diversions.

Ignore the signposts and beauty spots.

Fly across the meandering paths and obstacles,

across the trees and ravines,

the quarries and rubble of our lives.

Across the rooftops and industrial units,

the slime and mess of the river that runs through the place where we live.

Do not look for bridges we have burned

or be delayed by the trenches we have dug.

Swoop over our mountains made from mole-hills

and the babel tower blocks of steel and glass.

Ignore the congested canal of cars and two-way traffic

and the masts that search the sky for something more.

Swoop into our presence, Lord.

Come straightaway.

Come to us, Lord,

as the crow flies.

# C INDUSTRIAL SUNDAY RESOURCES

## 1 A Post-Industrial Lament

A suitable poem, such as RS Thomas’ ‘The Kingdom’, may be read.

The following may be read straight through as a meditation or used as a litany of prayer interspersed with an appropriate response, such as:

Lord who was and is and is to come:

**hear our prayer.**

For those whose lives were built on coal,

for the communities whose industry was pulled from under them,

as they returned from the politicians’ table empty handed

to build a new life on little,

with no new investment.

For the men who breathed in dust

and who, when they saw the light of day for longer,

coughed their way to the grave.

For the children buried by negligence,

the slag heaps standing on the edge of their lives,

the palms of their parents’ hands lined with an insignificant price.

For those who risked their lives,

and spent their lives for cities to rise.

For those who gave their backs for the rich to stand upon

and build their homes and empires.

For the communities who tightened in on themselves,

grew closer in the midst of hardship and danger,

dealing with a reputation thrust upon them,

and who now seek a new way

through a new world.

For the ravaged landscapes,

the coal belly of the earth carved out

but now made green again by nature,

resilient in its fight for us to survive.

For the planted trees, the lakes and streams,

the green mountains, a plaything for the young,

some turning to flame and fire

in some strange search for meaning.

For the mountains which shelter the people below,

their houses stitched into their side,

and allowing the earth to breathe again.

For those who set their faces towards the sea,

pulling coal and steel to foreign parts,

creating communities whose memory is still alive,

linking their lives to those a lifetime away,

rarely meeting, but connected,

so connected, like a web.

For those whose industry brought them to our shores from far away,

and whose lives lingered here and left their mark

for unknown generations,

creating an industrial life of new proportions,

as faith speaks to faith,

showing the possibility of peace

between lives which are so different.

For the wheezing children, their lungs tightened

By polluting fumes which fill the air,

pushed out from traffic

or tall chimneys which spit smoke into the sky.

For those who line the factory lines,

looking for a way to live,

and for those who take risks to create new opportunities

to clean the air,

to help us live within our means,

and fill the void of a post-industrial world.

For those who speak into the void,

and press their hands into the earth,

sowing seeds, delivering their own portion

of what it means to be sustainable.

For the mountaintop turbines which capture the wind,

or those out at sea lined up like sentinels

to guard our future.

For the dreams of a new future,

alive with life, at one with the world,

for the Kingdom of God to come

where industry mends the bent bones,

the minds fractured by life.

Lord Jesus Christ,

the Alpha and the Omega,

the Beginning and the end,

who was, and is, and is to come,

all time belongs to you.

Hear our prayers for a new world to come,

as we lament our past,

and rejoice in all that you are calling us to do.

Through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

## 2 An Industrial Liturgy

This liturgy is intended to be adapted to your own circumstance. It may be that your community is particularly sustained by one major Industry, a means of employment and investment, and you may want to focus on that. However, every community and each person are sustained by so many industries, many of which are essential to our lives, and this liturgy provides a means to consider all these and more. We are also, of course, concerned with the environmental impact of human living and the industries which sustain us, so there is, in these prayers, a certain aspect of lament for human error, but also an opportunity for commitment to seek alternative means through which our negative impact on the earth can be significantly reduced, and to try to live in harmony with the natural world. There is also an opportunity to celebrate some of the industries that have been grown from an eco-friendly ethos, or who those who have significantly reduced their harm to the world. However, there is a collective responsibility included too – we all have the ability to make certain choices, to live better, to live well.

#### Welcome and Introduction

Dear friends, our lives are interwoven, as we rely upon people we have never met to create and deliver for us all the goods and commodities we need for human flourishing, to fulfil our needs, and make life more efficient.

We give thanks for local industries which serve this community, bringing employment and investment, for all employers and workers, many of whom go unseen, unknown. *(We particularly remember…)*

We also recognise that all human activity and the industries of our world, affect the natural environment in some way. We pray that all industries will work in harmony with nature, creating a world that is sustainable, marked by respect for all living things, and that each of us will commit again to living better for the sake of all Creation.

#### Opening Prayer

All powerful God,

who created all that is good,

and gave us the ability to use our hands in creative work,

and our minds to imagine possibilities.

We give thanks for the industries of our community *(or country or world)*

the good they achieve,

and the benefits they bring.

We lament, too, over the damage caused to the world

by the effects of human living and working.

Give us a new heart,

a fresh vision,

and a strengthened will

to work in harmony with the world

and with one another,

so that your love and your way

may be known in industrial proportions.

Through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

#### Readings

Suggested Readings include:

Genesis 2: 4-17

Deuteronomy 24:14 -15

Ecclesiastes 9:7-12

Colossians 3

Revelation 21:1-9

1 Corinthians 3:10 – 15

2 Thessalonians 3:7-14

Matthew 7:24-27

#### Homily / Address

A homily or address may be given, which should be both locally and globally relevant, depending on the local context and the particular issues being explored. The address can lead into the following act of presenting symbols of history.

#### Symbols of Industry

These, for practical purposes, should be symbol which can be easily carried and placed in a central position. Examples of different industries may be such things as hard hat and visor, tools of the trade such as wire cutters, spades, etc architectural plans. Also, could be included some of the products we receive as a result of different industries from food and beverages to electronic and other items, etc. The planning of this section is an ideal opportunity to explore locally what is important and relevant.

The items can be placed centrally during the playing of music or accompanied by singing, although it would enable participants to visually appreciate the presentations if the music was sustained by a singer or choir, or if there was a simple refrain that meant that people weren’t fixed on an Order of Service. Alternatively, you may wish to create the display in the space before people arrive.

These are just a few items which represent so many industries in our community and country and throughout the world.

Let us pray now for all industries, for all employers and employees, and for those who seek new ways for a greener future.

#### Prayers for Industry

The following or other appropriate prayers may be used:

For the industries which sustain us,

bringing employment and investment

into our communities,

into our lives.

Lord, in your mercy:

**hear our prayer.**

For all industries upon which we rely,

for food and farming and fisheries,

for production, energy and transportation.

Lord, in your mercy:

**hear our prayer.**

For the health and safety of all workers,

for a fair living wage,

for rights respected,

and a safe working space.

Lord, in your mercy:

**hear our prayer.**

For those whose work is difficult,

and whose industry places them in danger,

for those who lay down their life

to make a living, to earn a wage,

and to serve their community.

Lord, in your mercy:

**hear our prayer.**

For employers and managers,

those who sit at the top of a growing company,

and who make decisions that affect our way of life.

Lord, in your mercy:

**hear our prayer.**

For small and growing industries,

competing in the marketplace,

and who enrich the local economy,

and inspire others to create new ways of working.

Lord, in your mercy:

**hear our prayer.**

For a commitment on the part of all of us

to cherish the natural world,

to live in harmony and live sustainably,

to make choices filled with care.

Lord, in your mercy:

**hear our prayer.**

That all our industries

may embrace the daily work of care and compassion,

the production of understanding,

and the labour of love.

Lord, in your mercy:

**hear our prayer.**

For those who imagine new ways,

who see the world differently,

sowing the small and ingenious seeds of growth

towards a green and greener industry.

Lord, in your mercy:

**hear our prayer.**

Let us pray as Jesus taught us as we say together:

**Our Father…**

#### Final Prayer

God of justice and of peace,

you created the world and all that is good.

May your justice prevail,

and your peace flourish in the hearts of all people.

Through our building and creating,

in our work and when at rest

may we have in our hearts

the good of your people,

the love of your world,

and the glory of your name;

through Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

# D PRAYERS FOR THE SEA

## 1 Blessing of the Seas

God our Creator,

in the beginning your Spirit hovered over the face of the deep

and you commanded light to come out of darkness:

bless all living creatures who inhabit the seas

and protect those who travel upon them;

that your whole creation may flourish

and all may find a home in the haven of your Kingdom

where, with your Son Jesus Christ and the Holy Spirit,

you live and reign, now and for ever. **Amen.**

## 2 For lifeboat crews

Merciful Father,

all things in heaven and earth are held within Your loving care,

look with favour upon the Royal National Lifeboat Institution.

Protect and bless the crews of all our lifeboats, our lifeguards

and all who risk their own safety to bring help to others.

Guide all who work for the Institution as volunteers, supporters or staff,

that they may be faithful to the vision of its founders,

so that it may always be seen as a beacon of hope and light

to those who find themselves in peril on the seas.

Through the same Jesus Christ,

to whom with You and the Holy Spirit be honour and glory,

now and forever. **Amen.**

(The Lifeboat Prayer)

## 3 For those in the fishing industry

Lord Jesus Christ,

the close friend of fishers,

save them from the storms

and protect them as they bring in the harvest of the seas

to provide food for our wellbeing.

The sea is so wide

and their boats are so small:

as you went out with the fishermen on Galilee,

go with them and give them your peace.

**Amen.**

## 4 For the Royal Navy

O Eternal Lord God,

who alone spreadest out the heavens and the rulest the raging of the sea,

and compassed the waters with bounds till day and night come to end:

be pleased to receive into thy Almighty and most Gracious protection

all those who go down to the sea in the ships

and occupy their business in great waters.

Preserve them from the dangers of the sea and of the air,

and the violence of the enemy;

that they may be a safeguard

unto our most gracious Sovereign Lord, King Charles, and his Dominions,

and a security for such as pass on the seas upon their lawful occasions,

that the inhabitants of our island and Commonwealth may,

in peace and quietness,

serve thee our God;

and that they may return in safety to enjoy the blessings of the land

with the fruits of their labours,

and with a thankful remembrance of thy mercies,

to praise and glorify thy holy Name,

through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

(The Royal Naval Prayer)

# E FOR LIFE AND WELL-BEING

## 1 A Litany for Carers

This Litany may be used in its entirety or certain petitions could be omitted as appropriate to make it much shorter. Alternatively, other verses created locally made be added.

For those who sit in the dark with the dying,

who hold their hands and whisper words,

bringing light and sharing un unbearable burden.

**Hear us, good Lord.**

For the young who care for a disabled parent,

those latchkey kids who put food on the table

and who have grown wise beyond their years.

**Hear us, good Lord.**

For the care worker brushing the hair of a resident

who looks at her and sees her own daughter,

or who smiles at her gently with the memory of a past love.

**Hear us, good Lord.**

For chaplains who move through the hospital wards,

speaking divine words into pain,

whispering words across the last breath of a dying patient,

or laughing with those who can find a smile.

**Hear us, good Lord.**

For teachers and school workers,

those who brush away the pain of a bruised knee,

or wipe the eyes of a child for whom life is unfair,

or hear the story that feels so unrepeatable.

**Hear us, good Lord.**

For doctors and surgeons,

and those whose skill and discernment,

brings hope and the possibility of a new future.

**Hear us, good Lord.**

For counsellors who sit and listen,

who hear the story of a person’s pain,

and guides them into the way of peace.

**Hear us, good Lord.**

For those who bring balm to the bereaved,

a crying shoulder, a silent hug,

and those who help to plan funerals,

a final, finishing touch when there is little else to do.

**Hear us, good Lord.**

For cleaners and porters and hospital workers

who create the space for caring,

sweep through the wards and the lives of others,

often unseen, unknown.

**Hear us, good Lord.**

For those who care for a parent whose life has slowed down,

whose mind is fractured, whose limbs are unsteady,

and who cannot be on their own.

**Hear us, good Lord.**

For all who support those with special needs,

to live their beautiful lives in a way that inspires us

and causes us to change the way we see things.

**Hear us, good Lord.**

For those whose children have life limiting conditions

who have learned to live with the possibilities of death,

the uncertainty of life made certain by illness.

**Hear us, good Lord.**

For priests and pastors, our neighbours and friends,

for parents who love us into being,

for those from whom a smile or a glance

is enough to bring healing to the day.

**Hear us, good Lord.**

For those who sit at the end of a telephone line,

listening to those who have lost their way

and cannot move on except to the thought of death.

**Hear us, good Lord.**

For the drugs worker who constantly sits,

hears the same words,

from the same person

who never seems to make it through,

but tells them they’ll always be there.

**Hear us, good Lord.**

For the ones who welcome the rough sleeper

into a place of safety,

who tend to their blackened feet,

or their fractured mind.

**Hear us, good Lord.**

From an uncaring society, unfair, unlovely,

where the length of our days is determined

by the place of our birth.

**Deliver us, Lord.**

From long waiting lists, undue burdens on carers,

measly pay and dire working conditions.

**Deliver us, Lord.**

From the temptation to turn the other check,

stepping over the drunk and the drugged,

or those whose chaotic lives cause us to squirm.

**Deliver us, Lord.**

From the inability to deal with tears

and from rushing on too quickly

to avoid the story of one who needs to speak.

**Deliver us, Lord.**

From a world where the vulnerable are seen as a burden,

where the old are treated with intolerance,

and the poor as seen as spongers.

Lord Jesus Christ, who cared for the sick and the poor,

**Have mercy on us.**

Lord Jesus Christ, who cared for old and young,

**Have mercy on us.**

Lord Jesus Christ, who sought out the lost and sat with the sinner.

**Have mercy on us.**

Comfort us, Lord, by the presence of your Holy Spirit,

as we give thanks for all who care,

that through us and all for whom we have prayed,

the healing power of Christ will be known,

and your abiding care of all that you have made

be realised in the world.

We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

## 2 Education Sunday

September and October are important months for many young people. As well as the beginning of a new school year it is also a time when many children and young people start a new school, or when young men and women (who have perhaps been part of parish life since they were children) are preparing to leave for College and University. It is both an anxious and an exciting time for the young people and their families. We are also mindful of and thankful for all who work in our schools and colleges, and so they are also included in these prayers of blessing.

These prayers may be used after the Post -Communion Prayer of the Eucharist before the Blessing of the People. You could also incorporate the material below into a special prayer service or liturgy for the young people and their families.

### a.  Blessing of Students and School Workers beginning a New Academic Year

#### Words of Introduction

We are gathered to ask God’s blessing on these children and young people *(and school staff)* as they begin a new academic year.

Although studies can sometimes be difficult

we know that the reward is great.

We pray for these pupils/students

With the help of their teachers

and all who work in our schools,

as their knowledge of the world increases

they may know, too,

the love and closeness of the Lord.

#### Prayer of Blessing

The priest says the prayer of blessing with hands outstretched over the young people.

We bless you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth,

for guiding and leading us

through the changes of life.

Bless + these young people

as they begin a new school year.

May they be eager to learn,

enjoy their studies,

and delight in new discoveries.

Help them to support and encourage

one another and to give of their best

in everything they do.

Bless, too, all who work in our schools,

that with enthusiasm and patience,

they may guide all within their care.

We ask this through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

### b. Blessing of Students preparing to leave for University

#### Words of Introduction

We are gathered in joy and thanksgiving to ask God’s blessing on these young people as they prepare to leave for university *(for the first time/for the new academic year)* that, through hard work, the new experiences before them will be fulfilling.

We pray that they may delight in new discoveries, broaden their horizons and understanding of the world. May they always be aware of God’s saving love and care, and our support and prayers.

#### Prayer of Blessing

The priest says the prayer of blessing with hands outstretched over the young people.

We bless you, Father,

Lord of heaven and earth

for your goodness to us and all your people.

We rejoice in the good things

you have accomplished in the

lives of these young people

and thank you for all the gifts

that you have given to them.

Bless them + as they prepare

to leave for college/university.

May their time at university be enjoyable and fulfilling.

Protect them with your love,

strengthen them with your Spirit

and guide them to make the right decisions

for the way of life they have received in Christ.

We ask this through Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

### c. Blessing of Students beginning a New School

#### Words of Introduction

We are gathered in joy and thanksgiving to ask God’s blessing on these *children/young people* as they prepare for life in a new school.

Joining a new school can be both a daunting and an exciting experience, and so we pray for them as they begin this new stage in their lives, asking God that they may always be aware of his presence.

#### Prayer of Blessing

The priest says the prayer of blessing with hands outstretched over the young people.

We bless you, Father,

Lord of heaven and earth,

for revealing your mysteries to the young,

and calling us to know you and the world

that you have created.

Bless + these children/young people

as they prepare to start at a new school.

May they always know

your presence in their lives

and the comfort and strength of the Holy Spirit.

We ask this through Christ our Lord.

**Amen**.

#### Concluding Rite

After the prayer of blessing the rite may be concluded with the following:

May God teach you his ways

and lead you to the joys of his kingdom,

now and for ever. **Amen.**

Then the priest blesses all present.

The blessing of almighty God almighty,

the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit

be among you and remain with you always.

**Amen.**

## 3 Litany for Survivors of Trauma and Abuse

Come, Holy Spirit,

rest in our broken hearts and heal our broken lives.

Carry us on wings of eagles

when hope lies crushed beneath the cross of our past.

Release us from the shame and grieving

that hinders our pursuit of joy in our Redeemer, Jesus Christ.

**Come, Holy Spirit.**

Comfort our pain.

Help us trust in Christ’s complete victory over evil,

so we may endure what we have suffered

until that day when all we cannot see and cannot know is finally made clear.

Renew us with a fuller understanding God’s grace,

that we may be open to sustenance to continue our recovery.

**Come, Holy Spirit.**

Help us discern the sure direction of God’s whisper

when noise and confusion threaten to send us on mistaken pathways.

Provide us generously with Your counsel,

so we may not be lost in a wilderness of sorrow, doubt and despair.

Help us to hear over our shoulder which way to go, what way turn to choose,

which time to rest and which time to push forward.

**Come, Holy Spirit.**

Grant us the courage to persevere through deserts of heart, mind and body.

Remind us gently how, each time we reach the end of our own strength and abilities,

we may surrender the next step to Jesus, who grants us faith, hope, love and life.

Keep our minds set on your loving purpose,

so easily obscured by trauma, abuse and grief.

**Come, Holy Spirit.**

Be our constant companion

as we look for the time when all of creation will be restored in Christ,

who, for love of us, died and rose again, that we might not be abandoned forever.

Grant us the wisdom to know the difference

between the weight of carrying the sins of others and the burden of our own sins;

that we may know your grace and peace which passes all understanding.

**Come, Holy Spirit.**

Shine your light in our hearts to know you

with freedom and without fright, with awe but without terror;

heal our wounds and the wounds of our broken world through the wounds of Christ,

that we might have life in all its fullness.

**Come, Holy Spirit.**

For ourselves,

for survivors of abuse of any kind,

for those wounded through their empathy for our wounds and love for us,

for those offering care and seeking to heal wounds in our Church,

and for those who have wounded us.

**Holy God,**

**Holy and Strong,**

**Holy and Immortal,**

**Have mercy upon us.**

(<https://www.vermontcatholic.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/12/prayer-for-survivors.pdf>

Adapted)

## ****4. Prayers for use in Association with Organ Donation****

### ****a.**** For those waiting for an organ transplant, or the donation of a suitable organ

These prayers may be offered in conjunction with prayers for healing.

(Either)

Creator God,  
breath of life,  
through medical science you have given us  
the skill and ability to transplant organs,  
renewing life for the critically ill.  
Bless (N), who awaits the gift of (…)  
to enhance the quality of *his/her* life.  
Release *him/her* from fear and pain,  
in the name of Jesus Christ, our Lord.

**Amen.**

(Or)

God of healing,  
(N) waits in the shadow of pain and suffering,  
in the shadow of disease and mortality.  
May this wait end soon,  
with the donation of a healthy organ;

a successful transplant  
and a speedy recovery;

through Jesus Christ our light and salvation.

**Amen.**

### ****b. For those considering organ donation****

Creator God,

send your Holy Spirit upon men and women

that they may be moved  
to share their health  
by *giving blood/  
registering as bone marrow and kidney donors/  
committing themselves to organ donation.*And move the hearts of families  
facing the death of a loved one,  
that, in the shadow of grief,  
they find the strength to give the gift of life to others;  
in Jesus’ name, we pray.

**Amen.**

### c. For those at the point of organ donation

This prayer may be used in conjunction with the laying on of hands and anointing

Eternal God,

bless (N’s) generosity of spirit

as *he/she* makes the decision to donate *his/her (Organ)*

that, through this gift, another life may be made whole.

Strengthen your servant, (N) as *he/she* prepares in heart and mind

to enter into glory with all the saints;

through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord,

who lives and reigns with you,

in the unity of the Holy Spirit,

one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

This prayer may be used after a person has made the decision to be an organ donor

Almighty and everliving God,

bless your servant (N)

as *he/she* makes the decision to donate *his/her (Organ)*

after death,

that the gift of life may be ensured for others

who are suffering.

In Jesus’ name we pray. **Amen.**

### d. For organ recipients

This prayer may be offered in conjunction with other prayers for healing

Almighty God,

whose Son, Jesus Christ, restored the sick to wholeness of mind and body,

bless (N) on receiving a donated *(Organ).*

Restore *him/her* with the gift of health,

that *he/she* may continue to serve you with hope and thanksgiving.

We pray, too, for the donor and family,

whose courage and compassion has enabled the possibility of this transplant.

In Jesus’ name, we pray.

**Amen.**

### e. For families of donors

Generous God,

we give thanks for the life of (N),

who was willing to donate *his/her* *(Organ)*

to give the gift of life to another.

We thank you for the courage of (N’s) family, who support this decision.

We pray that whoever is to receive this *(Organ)*

may rejoice in the continued gift of life, with hope in your love.

In Jesus’ name, we pray. **Amen.**

## 5 For the Homeless

### a. Intercessions for Homelessness Sunday

Heavenly Father, we thank you for your sustaining power, giving us hope;

help us not to forget that people are homeless every day across our nation.

God of love:

**hear our prayer.**

We pray for those sleeping under bridges, on park benches, in doorways or bus stations.

For those who can only find shelter for the night but must wander in the daytime.

God of love:

**hear our prayer.**

For families broken

because they could not afford to pay the rent.

God of love:

**hear our prayer.**

For those who have no relatives or friends who can take them in.

God of love:

**hear our prayer.**

For those who have no place to keep possessions.

God of love:

**hear our prayer.**

For those who are afraid and feel hopeless.

God of love:

**hear our prayer.**

For all affected by homelessness,

that you will help us to provide shelter, security, comfort and hope.

God of love:

**hear our prayer.**

Lord Jesus, help us to see your face in the eyes of every homeless person

that we may be empowered through word and deed,

by all the means we have,

to bring justice and peace in their time of need.

God of love:

**hear our prayer.**

Holy Spirit, stir our hearts to walk more closely with you,

that we might actively share your love

with our neighbours and the community around us.

God of love:

**hear our prayer.**

And may the infinite love of the Trinity,

Father, Son, and Holy Spirit,

guard our going out and our coming in,

from this time forth and for evermore. **Amen.**

*HJUK – Adapted*

### b. Memorial Service for People Who have Died Homeless

#### Prayer for Gathering: ‘More Or Less’

‘We are God’s children now; it does not yet appear what we shall be, but we know that when he appears we shall be like him, for we shall see him as he is.’ *(1 John 3:2)*

God,

here we are,

more or less.

The interested and curious,

the worshippers and wonderers,

the characters and questioners,

the seekers and the singers,

the givers and the takers,

the leavers and remainers,

the time wasters and ‘waste of timers,’

the comedians and seriously strange.

The ‘do no-gooders’ and the ‘good no doers’

the lonely and the lost,

the laughers and the losers,

the wasted talent and talented wasters,

those with no home and the ‘Told to go home-ers’

the spinners and winners,

the shakers and breakers,

the broken and the broken down,

those surprised by life and those with no life in them.

The fixers and the mixers,

the weepers and sleepers,

the dazed and easily amazed,

the discoverers and undiscovered,

the have-beens and the could have-beens

the frightened and the fallen,

the ‘lookers’ and the one’s to look out for,

the ‘hard knocks’ and the ‘hard done-bys’

the misunderstood and the mistaken stand-aloners,

the loved and those who long for love.

We’re all of these, well more or less,

we’re less than we can be and more than we will know.

God,

here we are,

more or less.

#### Intercessions

#### Invitation to Prayer

As the cold clings to the earth and the darkness deepens, we seek warmth and light,

gathered together to bring before God all who are homeless.

#### Petitions

We pray for those who are homeless,

for all who sleep on the streets and in our parks,

in doorways and dark corners,

or in hostels and supported living,

those who move from place to place,

for all who live in poverty,

and those who seek a way out or find it difficult to move on.

God of love:

**hear our prayer.**

We pray for those separated from their families by distance or disagreement,

all who have been hurt and hindered

and carry still their childhood scars within them,

for all who are judged or misunderstood,

those who struggle with systems and strange ways

and all who have been let down and let go.

God of love:

**hear our prayer.**

We pray for all who work with those who are homeless,

for paid workers and volunteers,

for the kind-hearted and all who reach out

with care and compassion to those in need,

who stand and sit and walk and wait with them,

sharing a small part in their journey through life.

God of love:

**hear our prayer.**

We pray for all who have died,

for our own families and friends,

and those who have died homeless,

especially those we have known

and who have touched our lives,

whose memory remains with us still,

whose names still raise a smile and stir our heart.

God of love:

**hear our prayer.**

God our Father,

hear the prayers we have made.

Let justice and peace fill the hearts and lives of all people,

and may all who have died come at last to their home in heaven,

where there is no sorrow or sighing, no pain or unhappiness,

only joy and life everlasting;

through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

## 6 One World Week

### Prayer: Of Our Lives

There is one world, and one human race. Although so often divided, we unite ourselves with everyone who lifts their hands in prayer for a just and peaceful world.

May the borders drawn from conflict and disagreement

become meeting points from which we build peace,

share our stories in openness and warmth,

as we hold hands across the barriers of our lives.

O God, who created the world we share:

**hear our prayer.**

May the fear that comes from not knowing,

and the rumours which emerge from ignorance

be dispelled by a spirit of curiosity and interest

and a celebration of the colour of our lives.

O God, who created the world we share:

**hear our prayer.**

May the communities which have cherished diversity

be raised on the stage of the world

so that others can receive a vision of possibilities,

where hope always settles on the horizon of our lives.

O God, who created the world we share:

**hear our prayer.**

May the sun which rises and sets on us all,

brighten the faces of children who look to the world

in hope and anticipation for a better world,

where poverty is ended and love rules the days of our lives.

O God, who created the world we share:

**hear our prayer.**

May each leader and government, every power and authority

recognise the repercussions of their actions

for those they have never met or seen,

so that each of us in turn can bring to others the richness of our lives.

O God, who created the world we share:

**hear our prayer.**

May the story of the past be told with honesty and truth,

allowing the voiceless to speak,

so that we can rejoice in our identity, celebrate our cultures,

and tell the tale of our lives.

O God, who created the world we share:

**hear our prayer.**

May a true sense of justice be planted in the hearts of the powerful,

Their ears be opened to those who cry out for justice,

reach out to others who govern and rule and lead

to create a world where war does not disrupt or disturb our lives.

O God, who created the world we share:

**hear our prayer.**

May each generation work together in harmony,

treat the world with gentleness and care,

Make changes for the good of the earth we share,

and celebrate what each of us brings from the riches of our lives.

In silence, we stand with others,

those with whom we share this land,

and all who are physically far from us

across barriers and boundaries, land and sea

but upon whom the same sun shines,

and whom we call our brother, our sister.

Silence, followed by:

Lord God,

all that is good has come from your loving heart,

and crafted by your all-powerful hand.

You have looked upon it and loved it,

you saw that it was good.

Help us and all people to

work for justice,

cherish peace,

pull down barriers,

and raise up all who are fallen.

Through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

## NOTES

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## 2 Forest Church Resources

These are informal resources. A question-and-answer approach at the start of the service can help to set the scene for the service theme. The minister can then respond to individual needs.

1. The group felt that listing a range of bread was appropriate here, but, in view of comments, the list has been reduced and may be translated more freely into Welsh. Locally appropriate types of bread may be substituted. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)