



Liturgy for the Season of Creation – Peace with Creation

September 7 – Pray

Opening Sentence

Officiant The pastures of the wilderness overflow; the hills gird themselves with joy; the meadows clothe themselves with flocks; the valleys deck themselves with grain; they shout and sing together for joy.

Confession

Officiant Let us confess our sins against God and all Creation.

All Merciful and sustaining God, we have sinned against you.
We confess our lack of gratitude for the beauty and bounty of your creation:
Teach us to see that your earth sustains us and all that lives.
We confess that we have misused your earth: grant us amendment of life.
We confess that we have been intemperate in our appetites: strengthen us in self-control.
We confess that we have taken the abundance of your world for granted: make us urgent now for its protection.
Forgive and renew us now through our Savior Jesus Christ, by the power of the Holy Spirit, with whom you live and reign, one God, now for ever. Amen.

The Invitatory and Psalter

Officiant This is the day the Creator has made

People Let us rejoice and be glad in it.

All Glory to the Source, Wisdom, and Breath of Creation: as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.

Antiphon for Creation

Officiant 'The Hope of the earth astonishes us: Come let us draw near.

Invitatory Psalm for Creation

Psalm 8 - **Reader #1**

O Lord our Governor, how exalted is your name in all the world!
Out of the mouths of infants and children your majesty is praised above the heavens.
You have set up a stronghold against your adversaries, to quell the enemy and the avenger.
When I consider your heavens, the work of your fingers, the moon and the stars you have set
in the courses,
What is man that you should be mindful of him?
The son of man that you should seek him out?
You have made him but little lower than the angels;
You adorn him with glory and honor;
You give him mastery over the works of your hands, you put all things under his feet:
All sheep and oxen, even the wild beasts of the field,
The birds of the air, the fish of the sea, and whatsoever walks in the paths of the sea.
O Lord our Governor, how exalted is your Name in all the World!

The Lessons

Epistle: Romans 8:19-23 – **Reader #2**

For the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the children of God. For the creation was subjected to futility, not of its own will but by the will of the one who subject it, in hope that 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. We know that the whole creation has been groaning in labor pains until now; and not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the first fruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly while we wait for adoption, the redemption of our bodies.

Hear what the Spirit is saying to all God's Creation.

Gospel: Matthew 6:19-24 – **Reader #3**

Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust consume and where thieves break in and steal, but store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust consumes and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

The eye is the lamp of the body. So, if your eye is healthy, your whole body will be full of light, but if your eye is unhealthy, your whole body will be full of darkness. If then the light in you is darkness, how great is the darkness! No one can serve two masters; for a slave will either hate the one and love the other, or be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and wealth.

Canticle

The Canticle of Brother Sun and Sister Moon St. Francis of Assisi – **Reader #4**

Most High, all-powerful, all-good Lord,
all praise is Yours, all glory, all honor and all blessings.
To you alone, Most High, do they belong, and no mortal lips are worthy to pronounce Your Name.
Praised be You my Lord with all Your creatures,
especially Sir Brother Sun, who is the day through whom You give us light.
And he is beautiful and radiant with great splendor,
of You Most High, he bears the likeness.
Praised be You, my Lord, through Sister Moon and the stars,
in the heavens you have made them bright, precious and fair.
Praised be You, my Lord, through Brothers Wind and Air, and fair and stormy,
all weather's moods, by which You cherish all that You have made.
Praised be You my Lord through Sister Water, so useful, humble, precious and pure.
Praised be You my Lord through Brother Fire, through whom You light the night
and he is beautiful and playful and robust and strong.
Praised be You my Lord through our Sister, Mother Earth who sustains and governs us,
producing varied fruits with colored flowers and herbs.
Praise be You my Lord through those who grant pardon for love of You and bear sickness and trial.
Blessed are those who endure in peace,
by You Most High, they will be crowned.
Praised be You, my Lord through Sister Death,
from whom no one living can escape.
Blessed are they She finds doing Your Will.
No second death can do them harm.
Praise and bless my Lord and give Him thanks, and serve Him with great humility.

The Creed

A Confession of St. Patrick

Note: This creed is attributed to the 5th century missionary and bishop Patrick, known as the Apostle of Ireland

All

Our God, God of all people,
God of heaven and earth, sea and rivers,
God of sun and moon, of all stars,
God of highest mountain, of deepest valleys,
God over heaven and in heaven and under heaven.
He has his dwelling in heaven and earth and sea and all that is in them.
He inspires all, he gives life to all, he surpasses all, he upholds all.
He ignites the light of the sun.

He surrounds the stars and tells them to shine.
He makes fountains in dry lands, and dry islands in the sea, and stars to serve the greater lights.
He has a Son, coeternal with him and like him.
The Son is not younger than the Father, neither is the Father older than the Son.
And the Holy Spirit breathes in them. Not separate are the Father and Son and Holy Spirit.⁵

The Prayers

Officiant May God be with all Creation.
People And restore us to harmony.
Officiant Let us pray.

The Lord's Prayer

Officiant Our Creator in heaven
People You are also at home in the air, soil, forests and oceans
Officiant Hallowed by your name
People By the care we take of your Creation
Officiant Your kingdom come
People All that you see is good
Officiant Your will be done on earth, as it is in Heaven
People Your will to till and care
Officiant Give us this day our daily bread
People That all may have enough to live life in fullness
Officiant Forgive us our trespasses
People Our greed, our exploitation, our lack of concern for other species and for future generations
Officiant As we forgive those who trespass against us
People By reconciliation with justice and peace.
Officiant Lead us not into temptation
People The temptation to equate dominion with exploitation
Officiant And deliver us from evil
People The evil of destroying your gift of creation
Officiant For yours is the kingdom
People Yours, Lord, not ours
Officiant The power and the glory
People In the cross and resurrection
Officiant For ever and ever
People You are the beginning and you are the end. Amen. (So be it.)

Suffrage

Officiant Show your creatures mercy, O Creator;

People And grant all Creation your restoration,
 Officiant Clothe your beloved ones with all goodness;
 People Let your creatures sing with joy.
 Officiant Give peace, O Creator, in all the world;
 People For only in you can we live in harmony.
 Officiant Keep every tribe and community under your wing;
 People And guide us in the way of universal communion.
 Officiant Let your way of love be known upon the Earth,
 People Your uniting wholeness among all divisions.
 Officiant Let not those in need, O God, be lost;
 People Nor the hope of the endangered be taken away.
 Officiant Put in us new soft hearts of flesh, O God;
 People And inspire us with your Holy Breath who sustains us.

Collect

Officiant All-loving God, you have so linked our lives one with another that all we do affects, for good or ill, all other lives: So guide us in our labor and leisure that it may be for the common good of all Creation; and, as we seek the proper share for all, make us supportive of the rightful needs of all creatures who live and love on this earth; through Jesus the Wisdom of Creation, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

Hymn

Note – Patricia Honeysuckle is working on music for this selection. She would like other musicians to join her.

Intercessions

Intercessory Prayers for Creation – Reader #5

Loving God, even the sparrow has found a home, and the swallow a nest for herself, where she places her young near

God, who listens to every living thing,

Help us listen as you do.

Loving God, help us provide refuge to every animal and plant with whom we live.

Help us be attentive to all you have made.

God, in whom all creation subsists,

Help us listen as you do.

Loving God, when Jesus cried out and gave up his Spirit, the earth shook and the rocks split.

You are known by the whole of Creation that listens to you.

God, to whom all creation responds,

Help us respond to you.

Loving God, help us hear and know you just as the earth and rocks do.

Help us to learn from the way in which we see Creation recognize your glorious beauty.

God, to whom all creation responds,

Help us respond to you.

Loving God, you are present in your Creation and seek to heal her wounds.

You can be found walking in the garden. Open our eyes to see you, the gardener.

God, who is present with your Creation,

Help us be present too.

Loving God, we often abandon your creation and cause its wounds.

Help us to follow in your footsteps and learn to walk in the garden like you.

God, who is present with your creation,

Help us be present too.

Loving God, who hears every voice, knows each cry of injustice, and is attentive to the suffering of the earth:

Teach us to listen.

Bring healing to our lives, that we may protect the world and not prey on it,

that we may listen to the world you have created and not close ourselves off from it.

Reveal to us the ways in which we have failed to hear your voice in how we treat the earth.

God, who listens to every living thing,

Help us listen as you do. Amen.

Concluding Sentence

Officiant - Colossians 1:15-18

Christ is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation, for in him all things in heaven and on earth were created, things visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or powers – all things have been created through him and for him. Amen.