

Liturgy Notes – World Environmental Week

For use on or around Sunday June

Liturgical Resource

World Environmental Week

Why do we have this resource & what are we to do with it?

World Environment Day is celebrated on June 5th each year.

As we unite in worship today, we are celebrating the wonders of God's creation and reflecting on our connection with the natural world. We offer our thanks and praise to the one who creates and sustains life in all its diverse forms.

The relationship between individuals or communities and the environment can never be detached from their relationship with God. Thus it is fitting that we celebrate World Environment Day. We are called to be mindful of the unity of Person in God, the Creator of the universe, the God who calls us to live in loving relationship with all creation.

These resources have been collated for use in churches on a Sunday within World Environmental Week (Sunday 6th June) and in the week before or after. They provide some ideas that can be used as they are or adapted to the worship style of any community. Some components have been specifically written for this resource and we have acknowledged where possible the use of other material.

This has been an initiative of the Church in Society Ministry Unit of the Diocese of Adelaide.

Gathering Rite and Opening Prayer

<p>Leader Loving God of all creation, you brought forth from nothing all that is, and give us this world to care for.</p> <p>All All your creation sings for joy.</p> <p>Leader You have called us to be good stewards of this land and to care for it for future generations.</p> <p>All All your creation sings for joy.</p> <p>Leader You, Lord, provide for all our needs from the abundance of your love and the generosity of this environment.</p> <p>All All your creation sings for joy.</p> <p>Leader We give you praise and thanksgiving for the world you have provided, and join as one, united in our responsibility for the land, the waters and all creation.</p> <p>All All your creation sings for joy for you bless us abundantly all our days.</p>	<p>Leader The world belongs to God</p> <p>All The world and all its people</p> <p>Leader How good and lovely it is</p> <p>All To live together in harmony</p> <p>Leader Love and justice come together</p> <p>All Justice and peace join hands</p> <p>Leader If God's disciples keep silent</p> <p>All These stones would shout aloud</p> <p>Leader Creator God, open our lips</p> <p>All And our mouths shall proclaim your praise</p> <p>http://www.neccsa.org.za/resources/Liturgy2005-AW.php</p>
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Collect

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.

<http://www.melbourne.anglican.com.au/main.php?pg=download&id=19063>

Penitential Prayer:

God, you have given this world to us to care for and to use to maintain our life. But we have failed in our stewardship and not shared what you have given us.

Lord, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy.

God, we have looked at the beauty of the environment that surrounds us, but failed to recognize it as the work of your hand and a reflection of your love for us.

Christ, have mercy.

Christ, have mercy.

God, you call us into community with the whole of creation, always cherishing, nurturing and renewing the earth. But we turned our back on your creation and failed to restore what we have damaged.

Lord, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy.

Absolution

Through our neglect we have sinned, and it is on your mercy and grace that we daily depend to provide all that we need. Your sins are forgiven in Jesus Christ, through whom the whole creation will be restored.

Amen

Confession

Holy God, Creator and Lover of all that is, we confess to you that we have sinned. We have failed in our care for the land and its creatures, we have been greedy, destructive, and wasteful of the resources you entrusted to us.

Polluted air and water, eroded soil and salty earth, birds and animals deprived of habitat, and neighbours left hungry and thirsty by our selfishness: all these cry out against us.

We do not know how to restore what we have damaged, and we repent in sorrow and distress.

Forgive us, we pray, and have mercy.

Give us grace to change our ways, to make amends, and to work together for the healing of the world, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Absolution

Our Saviour died and rose again so that for all who live in him there is a new creation.

Therefore I declare to you:

your sins are forgiven, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen. Send out your Spirit, O Lord.

Renew the hearts of your people.

Renew the face of the earth.

<http://www.anglican.org.au/docs/LITconfession%20environment.pdf>

Liturgy of the Word: Readings

Some suggested readings other than that of the day

<http://www.anglican.org.au/docs/LITlectionaryenviron.pdf>

Prayer of the Faithful / Intercessions

Leader: Let us pray to the God who welcomes and provides for all, who hears our prayers and in whose image we are made.

Creator God, 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 use its riches for the good and welfare of all.

God of life

hear our prayer.

God our Creator, we thank you for the warmth of the sun, the light of the moon, the glory of the stars and the clean air we breathe.

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

God of life

hear our prayer.

God of grace, we thank you for the gift of life you give us and pray for those who work to care for creation:

those preserving forests and oceans, air and water, animals and plants.

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

God of life

hear our prayer.

God of wisdom, guide us in the choices we make each day, in what we buy, how we travel, and what we reuse.

Enable us to live in harmony with your creation.

God of life

hear our prayer.

God of every time and place, we pray for the future of our earth.

Help us to be good stewards of the gifts you have given us that future generations may rejoice in your many gifts to us.

God of life

hear our prayer.

<http://www.melbourne.anglican.com.au/main.php?pg=download&id=19063>

God, the beginning and end of all things, in your providence and care you watch unceasingly over all creation;

we offer our prayers that in us and in all your people your will may be done, according to your wise and loving purpose in Christ our Lord.

Lord of all life:

hear our prayer.

We pray for all through whom we receive sustenance and life;

for farmers and agricultural workers,

for packers, distributors and company boards;

as you have so ordered our life that we depend upon each other, enable us by your grace to seek the well-being of others before our own.

Lord of all creation:

hear our prayer

We pray for all engaged in research to safeguard the environment and all who protect your creation from degradation.

Prosper the work of their hands and the searching of their minds, that their labour may be for the welfare of all.

Lord of all wisdom:

hear our prayer.

We pray for governments and aid agencies, and those areas of the world where there is disaster, drought and starvation.

By the grace of your Spirit,

touch our hearts and the hearts of all who live in comfortable plenty, and make us wise stewards of your gifts.

Lord of all justice:

hear our prayer.

We offer ourselves to your service, asking that by the Spirit at work in us others may receive a rich harvest of love and joy and peace.

Lord of all faithfulness:

hear our prayer.

We pray for those who are ill, remembering those in hospital and nursing homes and all who are known to us.

We pray for all who care for them.

Give skill and understanding

to all who work for their well-being.

	<p>Lord of all compassion: hear our prayer.</p> <p>We remember those who have died, whom we entrust to your eternal love in the hope of resurrection to new life. Lord of all peace: hear our prayer.</p> <p><i>Adapted from "Times and Seasons - Common Worship"</i></p>
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Leader: God of all creation, hear our prayers for all who are made in your image and likeness. We make our prayer through Christ, Your Son. **Amen**

Sign of Peace:

Leader: Jesus spoke and even the wind and waves obeyed him, bringing peace and comfort to all that followed him.

The peace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with you

And also with you.

Prayer of Offertory

God of all creation, through your goodness you have entrusted to us this earth and all that it provides. Give us wisdom and reverence so to use the resources of nature for the good of all and of the generations to come. Take and transform what we offer for your glory in this world.

Blessed be God forever.

Thanksgiving Preface

Suggested Preface APBA – page 161

Post Communion prayer

God of grace,
as you are ever at work in your creation,
so fulfil your wise and loving purpose in us
and in all who have partaken of this holy meal,
that your glory may be revealed in them
and in all that you have made,
and the whole earth give praise to you,
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Adapted from “Times and Seasons - Common Worship”

A prayer of commitment

Leader God has given us the world to care for;
let us commit ourselves to caring for God's creation.

All Amen. We respond to God's gift.

Leader Let us use our control over the natural world wisely and sensitively.

All Amen. We dedicate our efforts to serving God's Kingdom.

Leader Let us exercise our husbandry of animals and birds without exploitation.

All Amen. May no creature suffer cruelty at our hands.

Leader Let us nurture green and growing things for nourishment and beauty.

All Amen. May we use all advances in knowledge to enrich life on earth.

Leader Let us do all we can to keep pure the soil, the air and the water that give us
life.

All Amen. May we cherish the earth.

Leader Let us resist the temptation to exploit and pollute for profit and convenience.

All Amen. We cannot serve God and money.

Leader Let us love our neighbours and open our hearts to the needs of the poor.

All Amen. Jesus said: 'There is more happiness in giving than in receiving.'

Leader Let us pass on to our children and the generations yet to come a
world fit to be called home for the whole created order.

**All Amen. May we learn to appreciate the wonder of God's world.
In the name of Jesus Christ, Amen.**

<http://www.neccsa.org.za/resources/Liturgy2005-AW.php>

Final Blessing

God created all things through the outpouring of love. May God bless you with a passion for the environment and
a love of creation. **Amen**

Jesus came breaking open the word of God for all of us to feed upon. May God bless you with a hunger for the
word of God and the wisdom to see it in all of creation. **Amen**

The Spirit moves over the earth bringing life and renewal. May God bless you with a spirit and zeal to care for that
which has been given to us. **Amen**

And the blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, be upon you and remain with you
always.

All: **Amen**

Hymn Suggestions

From Together in Song

135 All things bright and beautiful

137 For the beauty of the earth

155 O Lord my God, when I in awesome wonder

156 Morning has broken

157 O Lord of every shining constellation

163 God who stretched the spangled heavens

175 Did you ever see a kookaburra laugh? (for children)

186 Stars and planets flung into orbit

188 Where wide sky rolls down

187 Let all creation dance

651 Take, take off your shoes

663 Isaiah the prophet has written of old

668 Touch the earth lightly

690 Beauty for brokenness