

RESOURCES FOR USE
CLIMATE JUSTICE SUNDAY 2023 ONLY,
IN THE DIOCESE OF NIAGARA
Make peace with creation



THE GATHERING

We gather in the name of God,
Creator, Redeemer, and Sustainer of the Earth and all creatures!

Greetings in the name of our God who is good:
whose love endures forever.

Greetings to you, sun and moon, you stars of the southern sky:
give to our God your thanks and praise.

Sunrise and sunset, night and day:
give to our God your thanks and praise. *(Hildegard of Bingen, 13th Century)*

Praise be to the Holy Trinity!
God is sound and life,
Creator of the Universe,
Source of all life, whom the angels sing;
wondrous Light of all mysteries known or unknown
to humankind, and life that lives in all. **Amen**

The Collect: Prayer for Climate Justice

God of life

Through whom all beauty and wonder come into being

We thank you for this Earth, our home

For the diversity of creation

And the blessings of earth, air and water

Grant us your grace that we may

Exercise wise stewardship of this Earth

Tread lightly upon it

And cherish its resources

Help us to move towards behaviors that are environmentally healthy
To leave behind our consumer demand for plastics and our wasteful
practices

To act now for the good of future generations and all of life

Give us the will and courage to simplify the way we live

To reduce the energy we use

To share the resources you provide

And to bear the cost of change

As climate change confronts us

May we commit to the changes that need to be made

Help us to become instruments of a new creation

Founded on the covenant of your love.

We ask this through Jesus Christ, our Saviour

Amen

~ from Climate Justice Niagara

Psalmody

The heavens declare the glory of God;
the skies proclaim the work of God's hands.
Day after day they pour forth speech;
night after night they reveal knowledge.

Listen to creation tell of God, listen to God's Word in scripture

They have no speech, they use no words; no sound is heard from them.
Yet their voice goes out into all the earth,
their words to the ends of the world.

Listen to creation tell of God, listen to God's Word in scripture

The law of the LORD is perfect, refreshing the soul.
The statutes of the LORD are trustworthy, making wise the simple.
The precepts of the LORD are right, giving joy to the heart.

Listen to creation tell of God, listen to God's Word in scripture

The commands of the LORD are radiant, giving light to the eyes.
The fear of the LORD is pure, enduring forever.
The decrees of the LORD are firm,
and all of them are righteous. (*Psalm 19*)

Listen to creation tell of God, listen to God's Word in scripture

Resources for the Prayers of the People

Litany of Lament and repentance

Three candles are lit to represent the voices of Indigenous people, women and biodiversity

God of our vibrant world,
You have given humans the responsibility to care for each other. Indigenous people have historical, spiritual, and personal ties to these lands on which we inhabit. But many of us have failed to recognise the presence of God in these traditions, and their voices have been silenced. We are thankful to Indigenous Nations for their continuing care and presence on the Earth. We all value the resilience and strength shown through the generations and today.

We turn to the Spirit who dismantles borders and celebrates life giving community.

Help us make a place where everyone is welcome and we acknowledge your grace at work in the ways of one another. Together, may we learn the spiritual richness of our relationships in the web of life.

Lord in your mercy, ***Hear our prayer***

O God of the whole of creation.

You have created land and trees, animals and all living creatures on the earth. We are destroying the forests through poisons and logging, the voices of the birds, insects and forest dwellers are silenced

You created the wonders of the ocean, the fish, shells, reefs, whales, waves, corals. The oceans are warming and as they drown in plastic, their voices are being stilled.

We turn to you in sorrow and repentance.

Please help us to care for the oceans, the land and the forest, and to recognise that it is your blessing for us. Creation is speaking to us, but their voices have been silenced by the roar of our greed

Lord in your mercy, ***Hear our prayer***

Mothering Earth, our Sister, you sustain and govern us. We have silenced the voices of your people, especially the voices of women - protectors of the Earth who have been killed by land grabbers, mining companies and oil companies. Many are the voices of our sisters who have been silenced by flooding, hurricanes and drought as the earth's warming brings destruction. May we listen to the voices of our mothers and sisters and learn to treasure and protect the web of life.

Lord in your mercy, ***Hear our prayer***

We turn to you in sorrow and repentance.
Please, Creator God, forgive us for the human activities which have
overpowered the weather and caused destruction of our environment.

Lord in your mercy, ***Hear our prayer***

(Adapted from a Prayer of Lament written by members of the four Religious Orders in the Anglican Church of Melanesia. Melanesian Brotherhood, Society of St Francis, Community of the Sisters of the Church, Community of the Sisters of Melanesia)

A time of silence is kept as people go forward to extinguish candles in memory of communities that are being wiped out by environmental degradation and creatures that are becoming extinct. For the voices of women, indigenous people and creation that have been silenced.

A Short form of Prayer

Leader: In peace, we pray to you, Loving God.

People: In your Spirit, O God, the world is transformed. Where there is the will to conflict, you are the Spirit working for reconciliation and peace.

Leader: Gracious God, Lord of Light, hear our prayer.

People: For the planet earth, our home, that we may honor her gifts, respect her limitations, and protect her resources.

Leader: Compassionate God, your faithfulness springs up from the ground, and your goodness looks down from the sky.

People: Rid us of the laziness and greed that diminish life as you teach us to care for your creation together.

Leader: We give thanks to God for his beautiful creation; for the way in which it is so intricately connected in an amazing chain of life of which we are a part;

People: for its resilience and its capacity to purify water; sequester carbon; create oxygen and make our planet habitable.

Leader: We pray for forgiveness for the way our society has placed profit ahead of the environment disregarding pollution, premature death and species extinction.

People: We pray that our species might find the will to return to you and to become faithful stewards of the world that you have placed us in. We ask this in the name of the Holy Trinity, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Thanksgiving for the Earth

Remember the fruits of the earth, for sowing and for harvest.

Remember the dew of the air.

Remember the downcoming of the rains and the waters and the rivers.

Remember the plants and the blooms of every year.

Remember the safety of humans and of animals and of me,
your sinful servant.

For the rain, the wind of the sky, seed, plants, the fruit of the trees
and also the vineyards, and for every tree in the entire world,

We are grateful

For the Holy Trinity who brings us to perfection in safety and peace,
forgives us our sins, brings us up according to their measure that we may
grow and prosper through your grace, who makes the face of the earth to
rejoice, waters her furrows, lets her grain be abundantly multiplied and
makes ready her seed-time and harvest,

We give You thanks

Sharing of the Peace

If we are in Christ, we are becoming a new creation.
We see God around us. We see God within us.
We give thanks to our Creator.

Let us show the caring nature you have instilled within us by greeting each other as a sign of God's justice of peace, love, forgiveness and grace.

The peace of our Creator be with you in all things.

And also with you.

*You are invited to care and share peace with your neighbor, and speak a word of peace to the land in which you gather, and the creatures who share this common home.
(adapted from Celebrating Creation: Honoring Indigenous People, Kelly Sherman-Conroy, ELCA)*

~ The Celebration of the Eucharist ~

Prayer over the Gifts

Priest: Blessed are you Lord God of all creation,
Through your goodness we have this bread to offer,
Fruit of the earth and work of human hands,
It will become for us our spiritual food

All: Blessed be God forever.

Priest: Blessed are you Lord God of all creation,
Through your good news we have this bread to offer,
Fruit of the earth and work of human hands,
It will become for us our spiritual drink.

All: Blessed be God forever.

Eucharistic Prayer (G, Common Worship, Church of England)

The Lord be with you
and also with you.

Lift up your hearts
We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God
It is right to give thanks and praise.

Blessed are you, Lord God, our light and our salvation,
to you be glory and praise for ever.

From the beginning you have created all things
and all your works echo the silent music of your praise.
In the fullness of time you made us in your image,
the crown of all creation.

You give us breath and speech, that with angels and archangels
and all the powers of heaven
we may find a voice to sing your praise:

**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.**

How wonderful the work of your hands, O Lord.
As a mother tenderly gathers her children,
you embraced a people as your own.
When they turned away and rebelled
your love remained steadfast.
From them you raised up Jesus our Saviour,
born of Mary, to be the living bread,
in whom all our hungers are satisfied.

He offered his life for sinners,
and with a love stronger than death
he opened wide his arms on the cross.
On the night before he died,
he came to supper with his friends and,
taking bread, he gave you thanks. †
He broke it and gave it to them, saying:
Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you;

do this in remembrance of me.

At the end of supper, taking the cup of wine, †
he gave you thanks, and said:
Drink this, all of you; 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.

Pour out your Holy Spirit as we bring before you
these gifts of your creation;
may they be for us the body and blood of your dear Son.
As we eat and drink these holy things in your presence,
form us in the likeness of Christ,
and build us into a living temple to your glory,
through Jesus Christ, our Lord,
by whom, with whom, and in whom,
with all who stand before you in earth and heaven,
we worship you, Creator almighty,
in songs of everlasting praise:

**Blessing and honour and glory and power
be yours for ever and ever. Amen.**

Prayer after Communion

Lord of all creation,
**as we have received the bread and wine,
fruits of the earth and tokens of salvation,
so with joy we celebrate your goodness
and commit ourselves to serve you on your earth,
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

BLESSING

One: Let us bless the Earth,

All: And all that is steady and firm.

**Let us bless the Sky,
and all that is open and filled with light.**

**Let us bless their union,
Holy and without ceasing.**

**Let us bless their children,
The bounty of field and forest,
Stones, plants, animals, and all living things.**

**May the gifts of the Earth and Sky
Strengthen, refresh, nourish, and heal the peoples of the
Earth. Amen.**

(Source: by Eric Williams)

Priest: May God bless us with wonder at creation's glory.
May God bless us with fury at creation's spoiling.
May God bless us with courage at this critical hour.
In the name of the Father and of the Son
And of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

DISMISSAL

May God who established the dance of creation,
Who marvelled at the lilies of the field,
Who transforms chaos to order,
**Lead us to transform our lives and the Church
To listen to the voice of all creatures,
That reflect God's glory in creation.**

(adapted from the CTBI Eco-Congregation Programme)

Climate Justice Niagara Sunday, April 23, 2023

Resources: <https://seasonofcreation.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/06/SOC-2022-Celebration-Guide-Final-English.pdf>; Confession <https://liturgy.co.nz/church-year/creation-season>; Eucharistic Prayer <https://www.churchofengland.org/sites/default/files/2019-06/8-parish-eucharist-winchester-diocese.pdf>;
Artwork: <https://www.ecocongregationscotland.org/creation-time/>



*Listen to the
Voice of Creation*
SEASON OF CREATION 2022



**SEASON OF
CREATION**