

Season of Creation Liturgies

Episcopal Diocese of Washington

Foreword

Welcome to the Season of Creation, also known as Creationtide. The Season of Creation was first adopted in 1989 by the Greek Orthodox Church. The worship practice has spread throughout the ecumenical world. It has led to the development of wonderful liturgical materials to celebrate a Season of Creation during the period from the Global World Day of Prayer for Creation (September 1) to the feast of St. Francis of Assisi, the man who is often called the patron saint of ecology (October 4). Because of the busyness of most church calendars in September, we are encouraging the use of this material over the full month of October.

EDOW Creation Care 2019 Convention Resolution

The Diocese of Washington, at its Convention on January 26, 2019, adopted a resolution inviting parishes to consider celebrating a Season of Creation in our worship. Resolution 1 encourages parishes

- to remember the care of God’s creation throughout the year in worship liturgies and in prayer;
- to consider adopting the Season of Creation in their worship calendar each year from 1 September (the Global Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation) to 4 October (St Francis of Assisi Day) to pray for and celebrate creation, to focus on the story of the Earth, and to commit to a ministry of healing the Earth; and
- to serve as a moral example in loving God’s creation and responding to the call to protect, conserve, and preserve this fragile earth, our island home.

Creation Care Liturgies

In response to that Convention invitation, we have assembled the following liturgical materials for parish use with the Diocese of Washington. A creation care lectionary provides readings for one or more Sundays, up to five. We have selected five themes for the lectionary:

- Stewardship: Care of God’s Creation
- Water: Loving God’s Gift of Water
- Land: Loving God’s Gift of the Land
- Biodiversity: Loving God’s Gift of Animal and Plant Diversity
- Dishonoring Creation: Laying Waste to God’s Creation

The centerpiece of the Eucharist is the Great Thanksgiving and we are recommending the use of Rite Two, Eucharistic Prayer C, from The Book of Common Prayer, 1979. The prayer wonderfully recognizes God’s creation of “this fragile earth, our island home.” There are many other Eucharistic prayers, this is our selection for this year.

To this liturgical foundation, we have assembled creation care liturgical materials from throughout the Anglican Communion, particularly the Anglican Church of Southern Africa, a worldwide leader within the Anglican Communion in celebrating God’s creation. We collected

multiple selections for other parts of a season of creation liturgy to provide parishes with flexibility in the celebration. Parishes may select from a variety of materials for use in the

- Collects of the Day and other prayers
- Lectionary for Creation Season
- Petitions for the Prayers of the People
- Substitutions for the General Confession
- Post-Communion Prayers
- Blessings and Dismissals

Ideas for sermon development, parallel Sunday school activities, and church and altar decorations can be found in the additional resources section below.

We pray that parishes find these materials helpful and that we all may embrace this opportunity to celebrate God's loving gift of creation.

Bishop Mariann approves the use of this Season of Creation lectionary and liturgies within the Diocese of Washington for the fall of 2019 and encourages their use on Sunday, October 4, 11, 18, and 27, 2019.

EDOW Southern Africa Link Committee
EDOW Environmental Network

Additional resources and references:

Episcopal Church [Creation Care](#)

Anglican Church of Southern Africa [Green Resources](#)

Anglican Communion [Season of Creation](#)

Anglican Church of Canada [Season of Creation](#)

Diocese of Western Massachusetts [Creation Care](#)

Season of Creation [Homepage](#) and Season of Creation 2018 [Guide](#).

<http://www.ClimateWitness.org> (talking points and sample sermons)

<http://www.RevivingCreation.org> (website of the Rev. Dr. Margaret Bullitt-Jonas, includes many sermons on climate for your review and prayer)

Schade, Leah D. [Creation-Crisis Preaching: Ecology, Theology, and the Pulpit](#), (Chalice Press).

Permission to use these resources

Please give acknowledgement when printing or projecting these prayers. A simple notation example could be – *from The Anglican Church of Southern Africa* – either directly under the material used or noted in your permission to use/copyright listings.

Resources for a Season of Creation 2019

Collects of the Day and other Prayers

<i>Resource</i>	<i>General Collects</i>
Episcopal Church - Liturgical Materials for Honoring God in Creation Reported to the 78th General Convention	God, maker of marvels, you weave the planet and all its creatures together in kinship; your unifying love is revealed in the interdependence of relationships in the complex world that you have made. Save us from the illusion that humankind is separate and alone, and join us in communion with all inhabitants of the universe; through Jesus Christ, our Redeemer, who topples the dividing walls by the power of your Holy Spirit, and who loves and reigns with you, for ever and ever. Amen.
Anglican Church of Southern Africa	Creator God, out of the overflowing of your love you created all things with rich variety and great beauty, and entrusted us with responsibility for them; grant that we might so value all that you have given into our care that we may strive to sustain its blessings for all people for all time; through our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, who is alive and reigns you and the Holy Spirit, One God, now and for ever. Amen.
Church of England - Alternative Service Book	Almighty and everlasting God, we offer you our hearty thanks for your goodness and care in giving us the fruits of the earth in their seasons. Give us grace to use them rightly, to your glory, for our own well being, and for the relief of those in need; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.
Anglican Church of Canada	Lord of all the universe, through your incarnation in Christ you identified with the created order and proclaimed your love for the world: assist us through your Son to respect and cherish the earth and all its creatures, through Jesus Christ who reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God now and forever. Amen.
Anglican Church of Southern Africa	God our creator, you have made us one with this earth, to tend it and bring forth fruit: may we so respect and cherish all that has life from you, that we may share in the labour of all creation to give birth to your hidden glory, through Jesus Christ. Amen.
Church of England - Environmental Programme	Creator God, you reveal yourself to us as Father, Son and Holy Spirit, so as we gather in this place, come amongst us. Help us to discern your spirit in the world around us. Let us find joy in the world that you created. Help us to worship you with all our being, and to hear and receive your word and your gifts. As we think about our local community and the glory of the natural world may we respond to you in love for our neighbors and for your creation, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

<i>Resource</i>	<i>Collects for Specific Themes</i>
Anglican Church of Southern Africa: <i>Stewardship</i>	Lord God, Giver and sustainer of life, You call us to responsibility and to care for your creation: Help us to respond to your call to be keepers and healers of the Earth Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.
Anglican Church of Southern Africa: <i>Water</i>	Lord God In water you reveal to us the attributes of your Spirit Deepen in us a deep respect for your waters of life That we may more fully drink the gift of your life giving Spirit Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.
Anglican Church of Southern Africa: <i>Land</i>	Lord God, you share with us the care of creation Give us the humility to be right stewards of the land and to protect and celebrate its resources with equity and justice; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.
Anglican Church of Southern Africa: <i>Biodiversity</i>	Lord God, your eternal power is seen in the whole web of life Your voice is heard in the beauty of creation. Rooted in your love may we worship you with all your creatures Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.
Church of England: <i>Biodiversity</i>	Creator God, you made the goodness of the land, the riches of the sea and the rhythm of the seasons; as we thank you for your gracious providing may we cherish and respect this planet and its peoples, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.
Anglican Church of Southern Africa: <i>Dishonoring Creation</i>	Lord God, You gather up the pieces so that nothing is lost Alert us to our carelessness and wastefulness And teach us to share from the abundance in our midst Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.
Anglican Church of Southern Africa: <i>Dishonoring Creation</i>	Almighty God, you created the heavens and the earth and all that is in them, and you created humankind in your own image, and it was very good: grant us the courage to recognize our failure to maintain your creation and by your grace do all that we can to halt the degradation of our environment; through Jesu Christ our Lord, who came that we might have life in all its fullness. Amen.

Lectionary for Creation Season

<i>Theme</i>	<i>First Reading</i>	<i>Psalm</i>	<i>Second Reading</i>	<i>Gospel</i>
Stewardship: <i>Care of God's Creation</i>	Genesis 1: 26 – 31	Psalm 8	1 Peter 4: 7 – 11	Luke 8: 8-15
Synopsis	God created humans on the same day as other animals to form the web of creation	God has made us wonderfully and with responsibilities in the care for creation	Christians are called to be stewards of the grace of God	We will be called to account for the way in which we have used what is given into our care
Water: <i>Loving God's Gift of Water</i>	Exodus 17:1-7	Psalm 65	Revelation 22: 1 – 5	John 4: 5 – 15
Synopsis	As the people in the wilderness are thirsty, Moses strikes the rock and water pours forth	Water is at the heart of thanksgiving for Gods provision	The heavenly vision of water bringing life and growth	Jesus offers water to the woman at the well
Land: <i>Loving God's Gift of the Land</i>	Genesis 12: 1-8	Psalm 126	Acts 4: 32 – 37	Mark 4: 26-34
Synopsis	God calls Abraham to journey to a land promised to him	The harvest of joy when land is used properly	The generosity of Barnabas in the sale of the land	Jesus constantly used images from nature in his parables
Biodiversity: <i>Loving God's Gift of Animal and Plant Diversity</i>	Job 28: 1 – 11	Psalm 148	Revelation 5: 11-14	Matthew 6:25 – 33

Synopsis	The wonders of creation and the blessing of God that so many of our needs are met through them	The song of all created things offering praise to God	Everything created by God is good	All creation is good and to be valued
Dishonoring Creation: <i>Forgetting to Care for God's Creation</i>	Isaiah 24: 1-13	Psalms 74	2 Corinthians 5: 14-17	John 6: 1-14
Synopsis	By breaking the covenant, the earth lies polluted	Remember the glory of God's creation	For the love of Christ, we live for others and their joy in God's creation	After feeding the five thousands, Jesus gathered the fragments so nothing may be lost

Petitions for the Prayers of the People

<i>Source</i>	<i>Petitions can added to any form of the Prayers of the People.</i>
Anglican Church of Southern Africa	For our brothers and sisters of the earth: animals, birds, fish, plants and insects, may their humility and simplicity inspire us to live according to you will. <i>Lord, have mercy.</i>
Anglican Church of Southern Africa	For the animals who give us faithful companionship, joy when we are happy and comfort when we are sad. <i>Lord, have mercy.</i>
Church of England - Diocese of Guildford	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. Lord, in your mercy, <i>Hear our prayer.</i>
Church of England - Diocese of Guildford	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. Lord, in your mercy, <i>Hear our prayer.</i>

Church of England - Diocese of Guildford	For the teeming life of the seas, and the flight of the birds. Help us to protect the environment so that all life may flourish. Lord, in your mercy, <i>Hear our prayer.</i>
Church of England - Diocese of Guildford	For 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. Lord, in your mercy, <i>Hear our prayer.</i>
Eco Congregation Ireland	For the land and fields of flowers; bless farmers, gardeners and all who till and care for the soil. Lord, in your mercy, <i>Hear our prayer.</i>
Church of England - Diocese of Guildford	Guide us into a sustainable future, and give us the will to share the fruits of the world; teach us to cherish the water of the earth, and to conserve the seas, lakes and rivers. Lord, in your mercy, <i>Hear our prayer.</i>
Church of England	God creator of the universe, of the earth and sea, of the earth's fruits and flowers, of all humans, habitats and creatures, help us to value and care for your world in all its beauty and fragility. Lord, in your mercy, <i>Hear our prayer.</i>
Eco Congregation Ireland	Teach us to have an ever growing reverence for your bountiful creation and a sense of responsibility for its preservation. Lord, in your mercy, <i>Hear our prayer.</i>

Substitutions for the General Confession

<i>Source</i>	<i>Prayers – General Confession</i>
Anglican Church of Southern Africa	O God of justice and plenty, whose generous earth was created for its own particular beauty, for the nourishment of its people, and to sing of your glory: We confess that through our sinfulness we have harvested injustice and pollution, and not your abundance; the land has become strange to us,

	<p>and our songs of celebration have turned harsh. We turn to you, O God. We renounce evil. We seek your forgiveness. We choose to be made whole. Amen</p>
<p>Anglican Church of Southern Africa</p>	<p>Holy and merciful God, we confess that we have failed to honour you by rightly claiming our kinship with all your creatures. We have walked heavily on your earth, overused and wasted its resources, taken for granted its beauty and abundance, and treated its inhabitants unjustly, holding future generations hostage to our greed. Have mercy on us and forgive us our sin. Renew in us the resolve to keep and conserve your earth as you desire and intend, with grateful and compassionate hearts, through your Son, our Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen</p>

Post Communion Prayers

<i>Source</i>	<i>Postcommunion Prayer</i>
<p>Anglican Church of Southern Africa</p>	<p>Creator God, you set the tree of life at the heart of the earthly paradise, and the bread of life at the heart of your Church; grant that we who have been nourished at this table may ever strive to work for the good of all creation; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen</p>
<p>Anglican Church of Southern Africa: <i>Stewardship</i></p>	<p>God our Creator, you feed your people with the bread from heaven: let this holy food sustain us through our earthly pilgrimage that we may come to that place where your people hunger and thirst no more and your creation is restored to its full glory; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.</p>
<p>Anglican Church of Southern Africa: <i>Stewardship</i></p>	<p>Lord of all, as with joy we have offered thanksgiving for your love in creation, move our hearts to be generous and wise stewards of the good things we enjoy; through Jesus Christ, the Lord of all creation. Amen.</p>
<p>Anglican Church of Southern Africa: <i>Water</i></p>	<p>O Creator God, pour out on us the water of life that we might quench our thirst and draw strength from you. Help us to stand alongside those who struggle daily for clean water, so that all might be refreshed and renewed by your abundant love, revealed in our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.</p>

Blessings and Dismissals

Source	Blessings
Anglican Church of Southern Africa	God, who is the source of all goodness and growth, pour his blessing upon all created things, and upon you, God’s children, that you may use them to God’s glory and the welfare of all peoples; and may God the Father, who spoke the waters of the earth into being, and God the Son, who gives living water to all who would receive it, and God the Holy Spirit, who refreshes our souls continually, bless you that you might be a blessing to others, today and always. <i>Amen.</i>
Church of England - Diocese of Guildford	May God our creator, who clothes the lilies of the field and feeds the birds of the air, bestow on you his care and increase the harvest of your righteousness and the blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you and remain with you always. Amen.
Source	Dismissals
Anglican Church of Southern Africa	Go forth confident in the hope; praise God in all creation; follow Christ through whom all things are made; in the power of the Spirit become a beacon of hope to the world. <i>Thanks be to God.</i>
Anglican Church of Southern Africa	Go out into the world rejoicing, and encounter the Creator who waits to meet you there; Rejoice in its richness and diversity and live as those who praise God for its bounty. <i>Thanks be to God.</i>
Church of England - Diocese of Guildford	Tend the earth, care for God’s good creation, and bring forth the fruits of righteousness. Go in peace to love and serve the Lord. <i>Thanks be to God.</i>