



season of creation creation time creationtide

with



Eco-Congregation Scotland, Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation (SCIO) regulated by the Scottish Charity Regulator (OSCR), Scottish Charity number: SC041287 www.ecocongregationscotland.org

Formal opening prayers for each week, with blessings



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– a digital ministry of the United Reformed Church.



Week 1

Prayers of Approach, Confession and Forgiveness

Hallelujah, praise the Lord!
Let us praise the Lord as long as we live,
whilst we have breath in our being.

Blessed are you, Lord our God, Sovereign of Creation,
for you have made the earth and the seas,
the mountains and the stars;
you set the planets in their place,
yet made us in your very own image,
causing us to strive for justice
and do what is right.
Blessed are you forever!

Yet often we come to you in our uncleanness,
we know of our sin yet don't know how to find healing,
we collude in the abuse of creation,
and argue with you in the process,
seeking to justify our actions and inactions,
forgetting the requirement to do good,
holding fast, instead to dead faith and cheap grace.

Forgive us, O God,
and give us time to change! Amen.

The Eternal One sets the prisoners free,
opens the eyes of the blind,
lifts up the oppressed,
loves the righteous
and sustains the poor.
As you follow God's way,
may you know the grace of forgiveness

and the power of change. Amen.

Blessing

May the One who calls you
to lift up the poor and shun the oppression of the rich,
to love your neighbour as yourself,
to show mercy to those who suffer and
to show your faith by your life,
give you time to live the Gospel,
that you may change,
offer resources to those who struggle,
show mercy to the planet, and
have faith that we can live differently.
And the blessing of Almighty God,
Father, Son and Holy Spirit,
be with you, now and always, Amen.



Week 2

Prayers of Approach, Confession and Forgiveness

When Satan tempts us
to turn away from creation
to deny the gifts we bring to make life abundant
to lie and join in with greater lies;
help us, Lady Wisdom,
to hear your call in the street,
to heed your voice in our lives,
to respond to your prodding for us to change.
Hear us, God of the heavens
as we come to worship you this day,
as we seek refreshment in our spirits and
nurture for our lives,
that as we meet you in word and song, movement and silence,

[bread and wine]
and in each other,
we may turn back to You in creation
to use the gifts you give us to nurture the earth,
and to speak the truth, whatever the cost. Amen

Blessing

May the One who gave creation voice,
who hears its pain and travail,
who aches at its moaning,
and suffers in the heat and the storms caused by our selfishness;
give you a voice to proclaim justice for the earth,
enable you to articulate creation's pain and travail,
and help you to work for change as the sea levels and temperatures rise,
that we may find ways to live with our new realities
and seek justice for the displaced.
And the blessing of Almighty God,
Father, Son and Holy Spirit,
be with you, now and always, Amen.



Week 3

Prayers of Approach, Confession and Forgiveness

Happy are you when you come into God's house!
Happy are you when you recycle, make do, and mend!
Happy are you when you come to praise the Eternal One!
Happy are you when you buy fairly traded goods!
Happy are you when you sing God's praises!
Happy are you when you give to the poor!
Happy are you when you pray!
Happy are you when you grow your own food and flowers!
Happy are you when come into God's house and praise the Eternal One!

Help us O God, to find happiness in the simple things of life,
help us to find happiness as we do justice,
sing your praise,

serve your people,
and care for your creation.

Often, however, O God, we are unhappy.

We suffer the consequences of injustice with food produced for less than it costs,
with the rich becoming more secure and the poor finding life ever more precarious,
we use our devices and are blind to the children who made them,
we heat or cool our homes oblivious of the millions who can't.

Open our eyes, O God, that we may see the world as it really is,
and give us time to find happiness again – for ourselves and all your people. Amen.

The God of justice aches to welcome us home,
Jesus yearns that we turn to Him,
the Holy Spirit gives us the power to change,
so accept the forgiveness we're offered and
find the courage to be truly happy. Amen.

Blessing

May the One who washes you with the blood of the Lamb,
enable you to see when Capital green-washes its sins.

May the One who tells you to perform works of wise gentleness,
open your eyes to the powers of death with seek to rule our world.

May the One who brings wisdom from above,
give you the simplicity of a child in the face of lies and injustice.

And the blessing of Almighty God,
Father, Son and Holy Spirit,
be with you, now and always, Amen.



Week 4

Prayers of Approach, Confession and Forgiveness

God of our forebears,
we thank you for your sustaining presence
through pestilence, plague, and pandemic.
We praise you for the ways in which you call us
to resist oppression and promote justice.
We bless you for the gifts you give us enabling us to turn the tables on evil,
as we worship you, inspire us, to work for change,
lift our spirits beyond despair,
and enable us to trust in you for the months and years ahead.

God of our forebears,
we complain like the rabble in the wilderness,
we look back to a time of plenty, cheap fuel, and a stable climate,
we are overwhelmed by unwelcome change,
and feel helpless in the face of earth's rage.
Forgive us when we despair,
when we feel there is nothing to be done,
when we are tempted to give up.
Instead, remind us that change is hard and, like childbirth, both painful and joyful.
Amen.

Blessing

May the One
who salts creation to preserve it,
who sees the good in all,
who calls us all to radical discipleship,
enable you to work as salt for society,
to see the good in those around you
and to strengthen your discipleship,
that together we may change the world,
And the blessing of Almighty God,
Father, Son and Holy Spirit,
be with you, now and always, Amen.



Week 5

Prayers of Approach, Confession and Forgiveness

O Lord, our God, how exalted is your holy Name,
creation cries with joy in your presence,
the moon and the stars bow down before you,
little ones sing your praises.

Jesus, reflection of God's glory,
exact imprint of God's being,
you call us to follow you,
to resist evil,
to work for change,
to love selflessly.

Holy Spirit,
melt the hardness of our hearts,
that we may hear your words to us,
and respond with both penitence and faith.
Forgive us when we have denied you in creation,
when we've turned away from our responsibilities,
when we've helped destroy what you've made,
forgive us, and give us time to change. Amen.

Long ago, God yearned for creation to be made whole,
and, in great love, became one with us to unite us to Himself.
Through the birth, life, death and new life of Jesus,
we are forgiven, so have the courage to forgive yourselves. Amen!

Blessing

May the One who, in these last days, has spoken to us,
who is superior to the angels,
and who sustains all things,
enable you to hear His word,
remind you of your place in, and responsibility to, creation,

and sustain you so that you may sustain others,
and the blessing of Almighty God,
Father, Son and Holy Spirit,
be with you, now and always, Amen.

