



SEASON OF CREATION

SEPTEMBER 1- OCTOBER 4

Prayers of Approach **provided for Season of Creation 2023**

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Through joy and hope

Sustaining God, through joy and love and hope
In fellow creatures you look us full in the face.
You delight and challenge, nourish and threaten;

And we, your people, are called to be alert, awake,
and ready to respond.
Fulfilling our place and purpose
our service as creatures

in the tending of all that has breath:
flesh of all flesh which in Christ you chose to be.

As trees breathe out what we breathe in
so in the cycles of life which are cycles of praise
you are given glory.

Dear God and Friend, and Source of wisdom
In this season: blow your Wild Wind
where there's a need
to stir us up
Help us to let be
As also to step in

Whatever serves your will for Sky and Soil, Heaven and Earth
For you, not we. are God;

AMEN

As fields grow ripe

Sustaining God, as fields grow ripe
the sights, sounds, smells of what will feed us
body soul and spirit,
bright come to light, inviting harvest

Grass waves, sea roars, fish swim, all teaching
of bounty and fragility
beauty and fertility
when nurtured and sometimes when left in peace

Our songs, sung new, will praise you
because of all that has been
Our lives today remake the joy
of all who've lived and died

Like rain and snow, your Word's received
and works, returns, to bless again:
in cycles, faith sustains.

And Christ, our flesh, like seed that falls
embraced by Earth
you rose into Creation:
be with us now as we bring praise
with all who breathe on Earth.

AMEN

The Great Landlord

Sustaining God, we live in good company:
of trees and birds; of the wildlife who,
with angels, and others,
fellow creatures of the one and only God
were with Christ in your 'wilderness';
the home you gave to so much life.
To our neighbours in the Earth, our friend,
on whom we, too, depend.

Great Landlord of the Earth's estate:
where dwell so many wonders of the web of life
dependent, interwoven,
with a right to expect deep wisdom
from those in God's image;

May our praise and worship, our acts of justice,
our robust love for neighbours and their ways and cycles
breathe a fruitful beauty to your glory
merely glimpsed in sights that take our breath away

Sustaining God, today, count us in to life.
Enfold, include, in blessing cell and sinew,
flesh and feather, scale and bone
leaf and sprouting bud.

And show us what in Christ you knew:
the cost and beauty of Humanity
Made New in fullest fellowship;
Complete where life is loved.
And living without ruling
For you alone are God.

AMEN

The Leader, the Way and the Life

[Job 12: 1Kgs 4:33 Matt 6:25, Luke 21:29, Rev 22]

Sustaining God, Leader, the Way and the Life
we're in need of good guidance today;

And so we've come looking for wisdom and hope.
To the books of your Word, both in language and life
To the treasures of faith you've made known.

We read:
'Speak to the Earth, who will teach you and guide you;
to fish in the water and birds of the heavens;

We read:
Kings given wisdom will speak of the insects,
the trees, and the creatures who fly and who swim

Christ says:
Look at the birds, and not one tree, but all trees

And at last, can a city be holy
unless streets are green?

Sustaining God, now lead us in wisdom:
break open once more as we pray
our names as they're written on Heaven and Earth
that joy, hope, and faith may reward and enrich us
As friends of Christ Jesus
AMEN.

Resilience and Relationship

Sustaining God, you call us into loving relationship
where love involves respect,
gifts given and received.

And this is love:
where voices raised in pain and praise
can count on hearing.

Today we offer praise, rejoicing that we're not alone;
for myriad creatures, in their way
bring diverse glory to God's name, who makes and loves them.

As other people, other faiths, grasp the urgency
with which we pray in these days of Nature and Climate Crisis.

And so, nourished by beauty, empowered by hope

assailed by injustice and global danger

We grasp this opportunity to be built up
resilient in love, through our brother Jesus

In whom, beyond the Cross of 'too late'
Beyond the grave of buried hope
God is with us through all that is to come.

This day and in all the days we've yet to share,
Relying on the strength of grace
in friendship with God's Earth,
from whom we're made.
AMEN

