

SEASON OF CREATION 2023

PRAYERS AND WORSHIP MATERIAL



Week 3

Week 3 Opening

Stretch out your hands

For the sea is God's partner

Dance with the mountains

as slavery ends

For chosen oppression

rebounds on the powerful

Earth holds to account

who exploits and grinds down.

Prayer of Approach: to 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

Confession, Pardon

Christ Crucified:
we need you.
To look us in the face and ask:
what have you done?

Christ of the Tree, we need you.
to instruct us in the care we have shunned
for every ecosystem we impinge on.

Christ laid in Earth, we need you
to show our limits, accept our death;
to cherish the resting-ground of new life
in springtime and harvest, cold and heat

Christ risen, blow your Wild Wind, your Spirit:
Shift our starting-points; dislodge
what goes by 'common sense'

When we begin, at last, to take it in:
the human Empire's crucifixion
of the poor, the lovely,

then grant *that* forgiveness
which *Earth* needs

that forgiveness that sets free

that forgiveness that gets on with change

and loves God in the chances, this new day.
AMEN

Thanksgiving (1)

God of Light and Dark
we thank you for the night now passed:
thanks for such rest night brought
to us and other creatures.

We thank you for the winter past
when goodness, laid in store was sleeping.

We thank you for the lives that passed
and those now in your closer care
that where they walked, a legacy remains;

We thank you for re-use, repurpose
Creation's great economy

And every encouragement we have
to hold to hope, and live as we pray.

One God of light and dark together,
the Sky and Soil.
of which we live
we thank you.
AMEN

Thanksgiving (2) [Exodus 15]

God, give us cause to sing and dance
to beat the drum and shake the tambourine

God let us hear and share the joy
when slavery is overcome

And when the joy and victory isn't ours
but owned by those who love their land
or celebrated by the least

invite us in, for hope is hope:
where last are first, the Earth can sing

And all the good, and just, and right news
must be heard
to feed us on the path of change.

God, give us cause to sing and dance
to beat the drum and shake the tambourine
when slaver's power is broken
by God's allies of the Earth.

Intercession [Matthew 18]

(please add or subtract sections according to local need. *Conclusion in italics is recycled from previous week*)

God, you have taken us on one side:
whispered in our ear
and listened; what it's like for us:

And so, in trust we share concerns and love and hope:

We pray for the work and witness of the aid agencies:
Christian Aid, Tear Fund, SCIAF and more
alive to the wholeness of care
Speaking out, that we too may hear.

We pray for the land we call home;
for a closer and deeper relationship
that values what is lovely, not just for profit.

We pray for communities who, in the transitions
which must lie ahead,
will be most vulnerable, having relied
on work and fuel that for our sake
has harmed the Earth.

May we, in life and prayer be mindful what responsibility is shared
Not abandoning the islands or the rural places
whose life and costly 'footprint' all the nation owns.

And we pray for those who shout louder:
that protest and campaigning may touch hearts
not merely ignite anger;
that generations see their common cause
and fault and fate

*We pray for courage amongst our leaders,
to shape the conditions
in which change may be rapid and just,
and the grace to tell them when they get it right.*

*We pray for peace amongst the nations
and an end to the hatred of God
expressed in war
where Creation is always the first casualty*

*God, keep us going, that our worry over tomorrow
may not overcome our joy, hope and commitment
to the goodness of this Day you have made.
AMEN*

Week 3 Closing

The God of Wait and See

Shout for joy

And dance for freedom

Where the victims

are set free

Cry for justice

Faithful creatures!

Of the God

of 'wait and see!'



MUSIC:

We recommend the use of the choices suggested via Trinity College, in which Eco-Congregation Scotland trustee Iain McLarty is fully involved.

<https://www.trinitycollegglasgow.co.uk/post/creation-time>

This week's New Words to a recycled tune:

God of Freedom, Greening

11 12 12 10 Nicea [CH4 111]

1) God of Freedom Greening:
dancing rejoicing
everywhere grim empire's power
is washed into the sea:
tides assert vitality,
vulnerable, mortality
while still the birds cry:
Freedom-greening God!

2) God of Freedom Greening
we choose to love you
and deep in our love commit
to care for whom you love:

All created goodness
All in need of healing
Web of life's justice
Freedom-greening God!