

## General guidance on hymns/songs in Creation Time/Season of Creation/Creationtide.



- 1) **Don't be afraid.** The crisis of nature & climate is much scarier than the challenge of choosing hymns/songs.
- 2) Really good, thoughtful **new words to old or familiar tunes** free a congregation to think and change.
- 3) **Don't be afraid of the oldies:** hymns written or translated before the modern or enlightenment era are less hung up about allowing for the voices and personalities of Creation, or presenting them only as means to a theological end, rather than partners in Creation's adoration of God.
- 4) **Stewardship-free zone.** The late twentieth century produced prayers and poetry which ruthlessly enthrone humanity at the cost of fellow creatures and the Earth. Look out for - and avoid - stuff with a tendency to treat Creation as an object to be 'janitored' rather than a community of powerful, vulnerable, nurturing **partners in health and just living.** God's Covenant is with 'all flesh' and 'with the Earth' rather than just with our species. We are not in charge. Don't sing songs which suggest we are.
- 5) **If you can't find it in your usual hymn source, write it.** Then sing it to someone you trust before inflicting it on a congregation.
- 6) Check out the collection **'Friends and Troublemakers'**, of new writing to old tunes as part of the EcoChaplaincy.