

Morning Prayer Rite II: May 9, 2021 10 AM
The Sixth Sunday of Easter

A Liturgy for the Earth

Created by the Episcopal Diocese of Maine Climate Justice Council Members:

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The Reverend Canon Eleanor Prior

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Opening Hymn: In the Garden (verses 1 and 2) (over)

1. I come to the gar - den a - lone, While the
 2. He speaks, and the sound of His voice Is so
 3. I'd stay in the gar - den with Him Though the

1. dew is still on the ros - es; And the voice I hear, fall - ing
 2. sweet the birds hush their sing - ing; And the me - lo - dy that He
 3. night a - round me be fall - ing; But He bids me go through the

1. on my ear, The Son of God dis - clos - es.
 2. gave to me With - in my heart is ring - ing.
 3. voice of woe, His voice to me is call - ing.

And He walks with me, and He talks with me, And He

tells me I am His own, And the joy we share as we

tar - ry there, None oth - er has ev - er known.

Words and Music by C. Austin Miles, 1912

The Invitatory and Psalter

Officiant: Gracious God, open our eyes that we may see the abundance of your creative love in all that surrounds and sustains us. Enable us to become people of hope and life, who plant the seeds of your earthly garden for the benefit of all. Help us to be gardeners and caregivers for the earth that is home for all life. Fill us with your gentle love, that we may walk tenderly on the earth, cooperating with your intention of abundant love and life. **Amen.**

Ecological Confession of Sin (Lutheran)

Note: For "Forest Sunday" in Season of Creation

Officiant: In the name of the great Creator, Redeemer and Sustainer of the earth and its inhabitants. We gather today to celebrate God's goodness in creation, to acknowledge our complicity in harming it and to find the grace and compassion to heal it, together with God and one another.

All: Merciful Creator, we confess to you our blindness to your presence in creation, and our disregard for the creatures of this planet, including trees. Our human hearts are set on personal gain and material wealth, and our drive for more has caused great damage. Forgive us our sins against your beloved creatures and empower us to walk humbly with you and with one another. Reconnect us with the web of creation and lead us to the community you envision for us, the creatures of your beloved Planet Earth. Amen.

Officiant: God our Creator is merciful, and forgives our sins, for the sake of the one who became flesh and dwelt among us, Jesus Christ our Lord. God gives us

new hearts to bear Christ's love to all inhabitants of the earth, and to advocate for their protection and well-being. **Amen.**

Invitatory and Psalter

Officiant: Lord, open our lips.

All: And our mouths shall proclaim your praise.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen. Alleluia!

Officiant: The earth is the Lord's for he made it. Come let us adore him.

Psalm 96 (said in unison)

- ¹ O sing to the LORD a new song;
sing to the LORD, all the earth.
- ² Sing to the LORD, bless his name;
tell of his salvation from day to day.
- ³ Declare his glory among the nations,
his marvelous works among all the peoples.
- ⁴ For great is the LORD, and greatly to be praised;
he is to be revered above all gods.
- ⁵ For all the gods of the peoples are idols,
but the LORD made the heavens.
- ⁶ Honor and majesty are before him;
strength and beauty are in his sanctuary.
- ⁷ Ascribe to the LORD, O families of the peoples,
ascribe to the LORD glory and strength.
- ⁸ Ascribe to the LORD the glory due his name;
bring an offering, and come into his courts.
- ⁹ Worship the LORD in holy splendor;
tremble before him, all the earth.
- ¹⁰ Say among the nations, "The LORD is king!
The world is firmly established; it shall never be moved.
He will judge the peoples with equity."
- ¹¹ Let the heavens be glad, and let the earth rejoice;
let the sea roar, and all that fills it;
- ¹² let the field exult, and everything in it.
Then shall all the trees of the forest sing for joy
- ¹³ before the LORD; for he is coming,
for he is coming to judge the earth.
He will judge the world with righteousness,
and the peoples with his truth.

The First Reading: "The Peace of Wild Things" by Wendell Berry

When despair for the world grows in me

and I wake in the night at the least sound
in fear of what my life and my children's lives may be,

I go and lie down where the wood drake rests in his
beauty on the water, and the great heron feeds.

I come into the peace of wild things
who do not tax their lives with forethought of grief.

I come into the presence of still water,
and I feel above me the day-blind stars waiting with their light.

For a time I rest in the grace of the world, and am free.

Creation's and Human's Relation with the Creator

God Created the Universe:

He spreads out the northern skies over empty space; he suspends the earth over nothing. He wraps up the waters in his clouds, yet the clouds do not burst under their weight. He covers the face of the full moon, spreading his clouds over it. The pillars of the heavens quake, aghast at his rebuke. By his power he churned up the sea. . . . By his breath the skies become fair. . . . And these are but the outer fringe of his works; how faint the whisper we hear of him! How then can we understand the thunder of his power? (Job 26:7-9, 11-14)

God Sustains the Creation:

He makes springs pour water into the ravines; it flows between the mountains. They give water to all the beasts of the field; the wild donkeys quench their thirst. The birds of the air nest by the waters; they sing among the branches. He waters the mountains from his upper chambers; the earth is satisfied by the fruit of his work. He makes grass grow for the cattle, and plants for man to cultivate—bringing forth food from the earth. (Psalm 104:10-14)

God's Promise to the Animals:

The wolf will live with the lamb, the leopard will lie down with the goat, the calf and the lion and the yearling together; and a little child will lead them. The cow will feed with the bear, their youth will lie down together, and the lion will eat straw like the ox. The infant will play near the hole of the cobra, and the young child put his hand into the viper's nest. They will neither harm nor destroy on my holy mountain, for the earth will be full of the knowledge of the Lord as the waters cover the sea. (Isaiah 11:6-9)

Command to Care for Creation:

You shall not pollute the land in which you live. . . . You shall not defile the land in which you live, in which I also dwell; for I the LORD dwell among the Israelites. (Numbers 35:33-34)

Hymn 664: My Shepherd will supply my need



1 My Shep - herd will sup - ply my need, Je - ho - vah
2 When I walk through the shades of death, thy pres - ence
3 The sure pro - vi - sions of my God at - tend me



is his Name; _____ in pas - tures fresh he
is my stay; _____ one word of thy sup -
all my days; _____ oh, may thy house be



makes me feed be - side the liv - ing stream.____
port - ing breath drives all my fears a - way.____
mine a - bode and all my work be praise.____



He brings my wan - dering spi - rit back when I for -
Thy hand, in sight of all my foes, doth still my
There would I find a sett - led rest, while o - thers



sake his ways, _____ and leads me, for his
ta - ble spread; _____ my cup with bless - ings
go and come; _____ no more a stran - ger



mer - cy's sake, in paths of truth and grace.____
o - ver - flows, thy oil a - noints my head.____
or a guest, but like a child at home.____

Words: Isaac Watts (1674-1748); para. of Psalm 23

Music: *Resignation*, American folk melody, acc. David Hurd (b. 1950) Copyright ©1985, David Hurd. All rights reserved. Used with permission.

The Gospel: John 15:9-17

Reader: A Reading from the Gospel of John

Jesus said to his disciples, “As the Father has loved me, so I have loved you; abide in my love. If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father’s commandments and abide in his love. I have said these things to you so that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be complete.

“This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. No one has greater love than this, to lay down one’s life for one’s friends. You are my friends if you do what I command you. I do not call you servants any longer, because the servant does not know what the master is doing; but I have called you friends, because I have made known to you everything that I have heard from my Father. You did not choose me but I chose you. And I appointed you to go and bear fruit, fruit that will last, so that the Father will give you whatever you ask him in my name. I am giving you these commands so that you may love one another.”

Reader: Hear what the Spirit is saying to God’s people.

All: Thanks be to God.

Earth Creed

All: We have come to renew our covenant with God and with one another in Christ Jesus, our Lord.

We have come to help protect God’s creation.

We have come as followers of Jesus to commit ourselves anew to one another and to heal injustice and poverty.

We have come to stand together against all threats to life. We have come to discover some new beauty every day in God’s creation: the sunrise and sunset, birds, flowers and trees, rainbows in the sky, the stars, the many forms of life in the forest.

We have come to listen to the “music of the universe”—water flowing over rocks, the wind, trees bending in the wind, raindrops pattering the roof.

We will remember always that God speaks to us through the beauty of his creation, and we will try our best to answer God’s call to reverence all that he has created.

The Prayers

Officiant: The Lord be with you.

All: And also with you.

Officiant: Let us pray.

**All: Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy Name,
thy kingdom come,
thy will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.**

**And forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those
who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom,
and the power, and the glory,
for ever and ever. Amen.**

Laudato Si, Prayer for Our Common Home

All powerful God, you are present in the whole universe
and in the smallest of your creatures.
You embrace with your tenderness all that exists.
Pour out upon us the power of your love,
that we may protect life and beauty.
Fill us with peace, that we may live
as brothers and sisters, harming no one.
O God of the poor,
help us to rescue the abandoned and forgotten of this earth,
so precious in your eyes.
Bring healing to our lives,
that we may protect the world and not prey on it,
that we may sow beauty, not pollution and destruction.

Touch the hearts of those who look only for gain
at the expense of the poor and the earth.
Teach us to discover the worth of each thing,
to be filled with awe and contemplation,
to recognize that we are profoundly united
with every creature as we journey towards your infinite light.
We thank you for being with us each day.
Encourage us, we pray, in our struggle
for justice, love and peace.

Hymn 122: God of the sparrow *(over)*



1 God of the spar - row
 2 God of the earth - quake
 3 God of the rain - bow
 4 God of the hun - gry
 5 God of the neigh - bor
 6 God of the a - ges



God of the whale God of the swirl - ing
 God of the storm God of the trum - pet
 God of the cross God of the emp - ty
 God of the sick God of the prod - i -
 God of the foe God of the prun - ing
 God near at hand God of the lov - ing



stars _____ How does the crea - ture say
 blast _____ How does the crea - ture cry
 grave _____ How does the crea - ture say
 gal _____ How does the crea - ture say
 hook _____ How docs the crea - ture say
 heart _____ How do your chil - dren say



Awe _____ How does the crea - ture say Praise. _____
 Woe _____ How does the crea - ture cry Save. _____
 Grace _____ How does the crea - ture say Thanks. _____
 Care _____ How does the crea - ture say Life. _____
 Love _____ How does the crea - ture say Peace. _____
 Joy _____ How do your chil - dren say Home. _____

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Indigenous Liturgy: Tweedy Sombrero, Navarrete Dine, United Methodist Pastor

Officiant: Thank you, Lord, for the people gathering around us today. Let us take this time to give thanks for these things of the earth that give us the means of life.

All: **Thank you for the plants, animals, and birds that we use as food and medicine.**

Officiant: Thank you for the natural world in which we find the means to be clothed and housed.

All: **Thank you, Lord, for the ability to use these gifts of the natural world.**

Officiant: Help us to see our place among these gifts not to squander them or think of them as means for selfish gain.

All: May we respect the life of all you have made. May our Spirit be strengthened by using only what we need and may we use our strength to help those who need us.

Confession

Officiant: Giver of life, in the midst of a plundered earth we groan with creation:

All: Have mercy on us.

Officiant: Giver of life, in the midst of poisoned waters we groan with creation:

All: Have mercy on us.

Officiant: Giver of life, in the midst of polluted air we groan with creation:

All: Have mercy on us.

Officiant: Giver of life, in the midst of mountains of waste we groan with creation:

All: Have mercy on us.

Officiant: Giver of life, in the midst of the world at war, and because of the Church's sinful participation in the Doctrine of Discovery and Manifest Destiny, we groan with creation:

All: Have mercy on us.

Officiant: Giver of life, we who are made in the image of God have gone astray. Attitudes of conquest and greed harm us all. Creation groans with us.

All: Have mercy on us.

Officiant: Thank you, Lord, for all that you have given us. Thank you for the beauty of the universe that you created: the trees, the sky, the mountains, the rain.

All things hold beauty in themselves and all are related and touch each universe of the earth. You created the rhythm and pattern of the universe in a harmony of movement, sight, and sound.

Help us to appreciate your creation and to live with our eyes, ears, and hears open to your message. **Amen.**

Benediction

Officiant: God is before us.

All: God is behind us.

Officiant: God is above us.

All: God is below us.

Officiant: God's words shall come from our mouths.

All: For we are all God's essence, a sign of God's love.

Officiant: All is finished in beauty.
All: All is finished in beauty.

Hymn WLP 812: Here I am, Lord

Dan Schutte

Verses



1. I, the Lord of sea and sky, I have heard my peo - ple cry.
2. I, the Lord of snow and rain, I have borne my peo-ple's pain.
3. I, the Lord of wind and flame, I will tend the poor and lame.



1. All who dwell in dark and sin My hand will save. I, who
2. I have wept for love of them. They turn a - way. I will
3. I will set a feast for them. My hand will save. Fin-est



1. made the stars of night, I will make their dark-ness bright.
2. break their hearts of stone, Give them hearts for love a - lone.
3. bread I will pro - vide Till their hearts be sat - is - fied.



1. Who will bear my light to them? Whom shall I send?
2. I will speak my word to them. Whom shall I send?
3. I will give my life to them. Whom shall I send?

Refrain



Here I am, Lord. Is it I, Lord? I have heard you



call-ing in the night. I will go, Lord, if you



lead me. I will hold your peo-ple in my heart.

Text: Based on Isaiah 6. Text and music © 1981, OCP Publications. All rights reserved.

Prayer: Benedictine Group, St. Andrew's, Newcastle

May God bless you with enough discomfort with easy answers, half-truths and expedient words, so that you may seek truth boldly and be a faithful steward and defender of Creation.

May God bless you with just enough anger over injustice, lies and exploitation so that you do not tire in working for peace, justice among all people and the healing of our planet through inspired leadership.

May God bless you with the gift of tears to shed with those who suffer from drought, forced migration and the loss of all they cherish, so that you may reach out your hand to comfort them and act to transform their pain.

May God bless you with enough foolishness to believe that you really can make a difference for God's Creation, so that you truly are able, with His grace, to do what others claim cannot be done. Amen.

Closing Prayer *(Joe Seramane, Christian Aid Lifelines, South Africa)*

You asked my hands that you might use them for your purpose, I gave them for a moment, then withdrew them, for the work was hard.

You asked for my mouth to speak out against injustice. I gave you a whisper that I might not be accused.

You asked for my life that you might work through me. I gave a small part that I might not get too involved.

Lord, forgive my calculated efforts to serve you only when it is convenient for me to do so, only in those places where it is safe to do so, and only in those who make it easy to do so.

Lord, forgive me, renew me, heal me, nurture me, empower me, send me out as an instrument of your peace and justice that I might take seriously the meaning of servant-leadership.

Closing Hymn 597: O Day of Peace *(over)*

Introduction



1 O day of peace that dim - ly shines through all our
2 Then shall the wolf dwell with the lamb, nor shall the



hopes and prayers and dreams, guide us to jus - tice, truth, and
fierce de - vour the small; as beasts and cat - tle calm - ly



love, de - liv - ered from our self - ish schemes. May swords of
graze, a lit - tle child shall lead them all. Then en - e -



hate fall from our hands, our hearts from en - vy find re -
mies shall learn to love, all crea - tures find their true ac -



lease, till by God's grace our war - ring world shall see Christ's
cord; the hope of peace shall be ful - filled, for all the

1 Interlude



prom-ised reign of peace.
earth shall know the (Lord.)

Final Ending



Lord.

Officiant: Let us bless the Lord and all of God's creation. Alleluia! Alleluia!

All: Thanks be to God. Alleluia! Alleluia!

Officiant: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, be with us all evermore. *Amen. 2 Corinthians 13:14*