

## Tuesday Morning Prayer

### Season of Creation

*The pale flowers of the dogwood outside this window are saints. The little yellow flowers that nobody notices on the edge of that road are saints looking up into the face of God. This leaf has its own texture and its own pattern of veins and its own holy shape, and the bass and trout hiding in the deep pools of the river are canonized by their beauty and their strength. The lakes hidden among the hills are saints, and the sea too is a saint who praises God without interruption in her majestic dance.- Thomas Merton*

*The fire has its flame and praises God. The wind blows the flame and praises God. In the voice we hear the word which praises God. And the word, when heard, praises God. So all of creation is a song of praise to God.  
—St. Hildegard of Bingen*

### **Opening Sentences**

We gather in the image of the Creator

**who is a community of love.**

We gather in the name of the Redeemer

**who reconciles all of creation.**

We gather in the presence of the Life Giver

**who inspires new life and renews it.**

We gather in the name of the Triune God, Creator, Redeemer, and Sustainer of the Earth and all its creatures!

***Silence***

### **Praise and Confession**

Praised be you, O God with all your creatures; and especially our brother the sun, who is the day, and the light; fair is he, and shining with a very great splendour: O God, he signifies you to us!

**Praised be you, O God, for our sister the moon, and for the stars, which God has set clear, precious and beautiful in the heavens.**

Praised be You, O God, through Brothers Wind and Air, fair and stormy, all weather's moods, by which You cherish all that You have made.

**Praised be You O God, through Sister Water, So useful, humble, precious and pure.**

Praised be You O God, through Brother Fire, through whom You light the night and he is beautiful and playful and robust and strong.

**Praised be You O God, through our Sister Earth who sustains and governs us, producing varied fruits with coloured flowers and herbs.**

Praise be You O God, through those who grant pardon for love of You and bear sickness and trial. Blessed are those who endure in peace, By You Most High, they will be crowned.

**Praised be You O God, through Sister Death, from whom no-one living can escape.**

**Blessed are they She finds doing Your Will**

***Silence***

We praise you God, for the Earth that sustains life. Through the planetary cycles of days and seasons, renewal and growth, you open your hand to give all creatures our food in the proper time.

**In your Wisdom you gave a Sabbath for the land to rest. But these days our living pushes the planet beyond its limits. We have not allowed the land to observe a Sabbath, and the Earth is struggling to renew.**

We have not allowed ourselves to enter into your rest and we are struggling to renew.

**We confess our lack of faith, not loving you with our whole heart and strength and mind, or our human and non-human neighbours as ourselves.**

Turn us from fear and mistrust,

**and free us to imagine a life reconciled to the Earth and all creatures**

*Silent prayer*

**Absolution**

**Readings** <https://lectionary.anglican.ca/> (Holy Eucharist Readings)

*(or if at home - Lectio Divina with Nature - found below)*

**Silence**

*Spoken or silent reflection on how the Spirit is speaking through the words of scripture and creation today.*

**Our Prayers**

I will light a light in the name of the Maker of light

**who lit the world with stars, sun and moon and breathed the breath of life into all things**

I will light a light in the name of Jesus, the revealer of light

**Who brought light into the darkness and stretched out his hands for us giving his love to the whole world**

I will light a light in the name of the Spirit, the inspirer of light

**Who lit the world from within and fills our life with wonder**

We hold these lights

**For ourselves and each other, for our families, friends and enemies, for our work, hopes and struggles**

*Silent or spoken prayers*

We hold these lights

**For the oppressed and marginalized, for those in need here in this place and around this earth - For a future of peace and justice**

*Silent or spoken prayers*

We hold these lights

**Lamenting the groans of creation**

*Silent or spoken prayers*

We hold these lights to give thanks

**For water, air and soil, for plants, trees and animals, for minerals and fossils for the awe and terror of Gods blessed creation and for our lives as beloved image bearers.**

*Silent or spoken prayers*

We hold these lights

**For the Trinity of light - God's presence everywhere, God's salvation for everyone, God's inspiration of all things.**

Gathering the light of our prayers, we lift them to the Creator of all as we pray

***Abba, Amma, Beloved, your name be hallowed, your reign spread among us, your will be done well, at all times, in all places, on earth as in heaven. Give us the bread we need for today. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Let us not fail in the time of our testing. Spare us from trials too sharp to endure. Free us from the grip of all evil powers. For yours is the reign, the power and the glory, the victory of love, for now and eternity, world without end. Amen and amen.***

*Trinity of Love,*

**May our footprint on this earth be light**

**May we discover the holiness of your presence everywhere**

**May we learn how to value your gifts without harm or waste**

**May we awake to the wonder of your creation this day**

**In Jesus name we pray. Amen.**

Let us bless the Lord

**Thanks be to God**



*It could be said that God's foot is so vast that this entire earth is but a field on God's toe, and all the forests in this world came from the same root of just a single hair of God's. What then is not a sanctuary? Where then can I not kneel and pray at a shrine made holy by God's presence? —St. Catherine of Siena, "The Sanctuary"*

## **Meditation: Lectio Divina with Creation**

*“If creation is a visible revelation of the Divine Presence in our midst, then we might consider it worthy of prayer and contemplation. We can bring the practice of lectio divina—or sacred reading, where we sit with the words of scripture and listen for a word that shimmers or calls to us, let it unfold in our imagination, receive the invitation, and then bask in silence—to this other “book” of revelation available to us. Make time for a slow and contemplative walk in nature. As you walk, imagine yourself to be in a great cathedral of trees, stone, and sky. Listen for a word nature offers to you; it might be the song of a bird, the rustling of leaves, the silence of stones, or the sea drawing out on the tide. You might be reminded of a familiar phrase, or a new one may be evoked. This “word” becomes a catalyst for your own inner reflection and experience, sparking memories, feelings, or images, allowing space for these to unfold. Then you open to an invitation that emerges from this prayer of listening. It is a call from Earth to a deepened awareness—to rest in silence and simply to savor it all, knowing that you are ultimately called simply to rest into being rather than doing. Perhaps you find yourself in conversation with nature and discover you are not talking to something separate but you are woven into this matrix of life. Philosopher David Abram writes that “prayer, in its most ancient and elemental sense, consists simply in speaking to things—to a maple grove, to a flock of crows, to the rising wind—rather than merely about things. ”This is an invitation to understand prayer as deeply incarnational, discovering the presence of the Holy woven through every element, so that we no longer address our prayers to some transcendent being but are right in conversation with the shimmering immanent presence of the Divine through every leaf, acorn, gust of wind, and mossy stone. Theologian Belden Lane calls this sacred reading of nature lectio terrestris. The practice is simply to notice what is calling your attention, reflecting on what you are drawn to, listening for the invitation arising from this, and then sitting with your prayer in silence.”*

**-Earth, Our Original Monastery: Cultivating Wonder and Gratitude through Intimacy with Nature** by Christine & John Valters Paintner