

## Morning Prayer – Thursdays in Lent

Bell x3

O Lord, open our lips.

**And our mouth shall proclaim your praise.**

Blessed are you, Lord God, creator of heaven and earth. Your Word calls all things into being, and your new dawn awakens us to life. May your wisdom guide us this day that we may cherish and care for your good creation, and offer to you the sacrifice of our lips as we praise you.

**Blessed be God for ever.**

### Kyrie

#### Call to Confession

Divine Creator, when you first stirred the waters and breathed into the soil of the earth, all life was able to flourish.

**From birth to death, there was enough. Creatures and creations lived in cooperation. The land. The water. The animals. The people. All part of the family of God.**

But as evil and greed permeated the hearts of humanity, so began the interruption of Love's natural rhythms.

**We distanced ourselves from our creaturely neighbors, and began to see the land as little more than fields of profit. We made ourselves strangers to our own home, neglecting the wild in us, forgetting our place among the whole of things.**

*Silent confession*

Renew us, O God, to right-relationship with the earth, with our own bodies born from soil and water, with our neighbors who bear the worst consequences of our consumption and negligence.

**May we be the ones who mend what has been destroyed,  
who confront the powerful who plunder and leave barren,  
who desires transformation of our own hearts and practices,  
that life's abundance may be restored upon the earth,  
and all creatures and creations may rest in your care.** *(-enfleshed)*

God who breathes compassion and mercy upon the whole earth, forgive and cleanse us from our sins and lead us into new life. For we pray in Jesus name. **Amen**

### Psalm

#### Readings

#### Gospel Acclamation

**Restore us again**

**God of our salvation**

**Revive us again in your unfailing love x2**

### Silence

#### Time of spoken and silent reflection

*(How is the Spirit calling me/us to be God's people through these readings this morning? How do these words call me to deeper, faith, hope and love?)*

## **Affirmation of Faith**

Let us affirm our faith together.

We believe that God creates all things, renews all things and celebrates all things.

**We believe Earth is a sanctuary, a sacred planet filled with God's presence, a home for us to share with all.**

We believe that God became flesh and blood, became a part of Earth, a human being called Jesus Christ, who lived and breathed and spoke among us, suffered and died on a cross, for all human beings and for all creation.

**We believe that the risen Jesus is the Christ at the core of creation reconciling all things to God, renewing all creation and filling the cosmos.**

We believe the Holy Spirit renews life in creation, groans in empathy with a suffering creation, and waits with us for the rebirth of creation.

**We believe that with Christ we will rise and with Christ we will celebrate a new creation.** *(-Norman Habel, from Live Simply)*

## **Our Prayers**

*(Collect may gather the prayers)*

Gathering our prayers spoken or unspoken we lift them to God saying together

**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.**

## **Sending**

Bodies made of dirt

Earth and soil

Remembering who we are

**Not gods**

**But the image of God**

Not divine

But the likeness of the divine

**Made with breath**

**The wind in our lungs**

**Dependent on intimate touch**

**From our creator**

To be brought together

From the ground up

Connected to all the life around us

**Not separate**

**But tied,**

**woven,**

**A branch**

**A leaf...**

Creation shaped by the created

Created shaping the creator

The artist seeing themselves

in the earthenware

**By way of growing tenderness,**

**A shoot that emerges forth from the grown**

**That climbs upward to the sun**

**That will return one day**

**To the earth it has come**

As a seed

As life eternal

As life renewed

*(-Earthen Vessels - by Phuc Luu)*

Let us bless the Lord

**Thanks be to God!**

Bell x 3