



September 24, 2022 + 4PM

“We gather together for a seemingly simple act: to light a candle and to pray. As frail creatures in the face of the climate crisis, it can sometimes feel as though we can do little more...

We come trusting that in the mysterious economy of God, lighting a candle and praying does make a difference. And so, we gather to light our candles and to pray. To lift up the victims of the climate crisis in prayer, to confess and lament our complicity in their suffering, and to resolve to turn our prayers into action.”

#CLIMATEVIGIL

WE GATHER

Opening Loop

The Children/Youth Toll the Bells

Welcome, Announcements and Land Acknowledgement

Gathering Prayer:

God of Creation,

God of Compassion,

The earth as a cosmic temple presents itself
as a symphony of praise;

A rich diversity of song and dance

From mountain heights to ocean depths,

Across the seasons,

Non-human worshippers worship

**With a stunning array of unique colours,
sounds, and diverse characteristics.**

The willow tree bows in reverent praise,

And birds perform a waltz of wonder in flight.

Since creation's dawn,

You, O God, have opened their lips;

A hiss, a screech, a bark, a purr, a tweet,

a song, a howl, a caw,

You have filled their beaks, their wings, their lips
their mouths with praise.

And we join them with them in saying

What you have made is good. *(Rev'd Jon Swales, alt.)*

Call us out of our sleep; Awaken our hearts and minds
to the reality of our hurting earth.

Awaken our hearts and minds to your hope.

Awaken us to be a part of the renewal of your creation.

Amen.

Opening Song: Touch the Earth Lightly

(To the tune of Morning has Broken)

Touch the earth lightly, use the earth gently,
nourish the life of the world in our care:
gift of great wonder, ours to surrender,
trust for the children tomorrow will bear.

We who endanger, who create hunger,
agents of death for all creatures that live,
we who would foster clouds of disaster,
God of our planet, forestall and forgive!

Let there be greening, birth from the burning,
water that blesses and air that is sweet,
health in God's garden, hope in God's children,
regeneration that peace will complete.

God of all living, God of all loving,
God of the seedling, the snow, and the sun,
teach us, deflect us, Christ reconnect us,
using us gently and making us one.

Shirley Erena Murray, © 1992 Hope Publishing Company, tune: BUNESSAN, Gaelic traditional

Poem: Growing for Growth, it has to End

When we began, our feet trod lightly
Bare upon the earth, we were weightless
Travellers, allowing resurgence and
Regrowth, leaving enough. Reverence.
Forging through millennia, we kept on
Adding endless weight, a leadening
Heaviness, leaving deep and lasting

Indentations, sending shockwaves. Eliminating.
Cruelty, cavernous greed, no impediment,
Hands and feet became Industrial.
Monsters, spewing toxicity, sickening,
Deafening, echoing arrows. Piercing.
Now thundering, trampling boundlessly.
Decimating pathways once bountiful.
We watch helplessly, numb and aching,
Our hollow, haunting cries in empty spaces. Waiting.
Stop. I hear hope, purposely striding.
Footsteps pleading necessary action.
Great minds whirring, channelling change,
Demanding, respectfully our weight to Lessen.
I want birdsong, abundant fluttering,
Humming, no more poison or destruction.
Growing for growth, it has to end.
Will my generation see the rightful Rising?

"Diary of a Young Naturalist," Dara McAnulty.

Table-Setting Song: Glory

During this song, you are invited to bring forward any symbols of your grief/commitment and lay them at the altar.

When I was young you woke me with the sound of song
The wind and rhythm drew me along
I echoed in the hymn of the dawn
I turned, entered this dance that all the planets learned
In circles 'round the stars as they burn
I praise you as I orbit and turn

Chorus: Declaring Glory, Glory! (x2)

The mountains rise, the forests grow before my eyes
The moments and the seasons unwind
They turn again, embracing the tide.
The water falls and carve their way across my soil
Their canyons cutting deep in my soul
I praise you while the rivers still roll. *Chorus*

New life begins,
your creatures dance across my skin.
Like me, they have your spirit within
But soon they fade away as I spin. *Chorus*

They fall to dust and dress me in decay and rust
Their secrets buried deep in my crust
I praise you in the layers of dust. *Chorus*

The rocks wear down
beneath the passing of the clouds
The rivers run until they run out
I'll praise you 'til my fires run out. (x3)
I'll praise my maker in every age. (x4)

The Porter's Gate Worship Project, Climate Vigil Songs, 2022.

An exploration of Creation in story and song

WE LAMENT

God of life, you call us to be participants in the web and wellspring of life: to be nurtured by the planet; to be nurturing of the planet; to cherish the world and all that lives. But creation groans under our weight. (Prayer for climate action)

We honour the pain of the Earth...

Silence is kept

We lament the loss of life-giving topsoil, the changing of land, the loss of habitat, the human greed that paves paradise and puts up a parking lot. We lament the destruction of forests, wetlands, the desertification of so many places and the mass extinctions of plants, animals, and insects, as Earth's capacity to be home to life is fractured, all in the name of "progress." We lament as we hear the cries of the earth...

Lord, have mercy (x4)

Holy Spirit rest upon us

teach us how to tend to creation

Holy Spirit rest upon us

guide us from our path of destruction

We honour the pain of the Water...

Silence is kept

We remember ice caps that melt, and the countless species of marine life which are under threat from warming and acidifying oceans. We lament the water that roils in hurricanes, overwhelms in floods, and rises along coastlines. We pray for the people in 11 First Nations communities in B.C. still struggling with water restrictions that force them to boil or buy water to drink, bathe and cook with, often for months, if not years, on end. We lament the polluting of our water systems and choking of our oceans because of plastic pollution: For animals sick and dying, for subsistence fisherfolk who pull up nets full of rubbish, for those who suffer health problems due to contaminated seafood. We lament as we hear the cries of the water...

Lord, have mercy (x4)
Holy Spirit rest upon us
teach us how to tend to creation
Holy Spirit rest upon us
guide us from our path of destruction

We honour the pain of the Air...

Silence is kept

We lament the emissions of carbon dioxide and other toxic gasses that make our atmosphere betray its own life-sustaining properties. We lament that pollution and smog choke the sacred breath all creatures need to live and to thrive. We drive over the rising temperatures and shifting weather patterns which affect birds' and insects ability to find food and nesting materials and that air quality for all life is being jeopardized by pollution. We lament as we hear the cries of the air...

Lord, have mercy (x4)
Holy Spirit rest upon us
teach us how to tend to creation
Holy Spirit rest upon us
guide us from our path of destruction

We honour the pain of Fire...

Silence is kept

We lament Earth's surface temperatures that rise unrelentingly as vast and ever-expanding human settlements disrupt and transform natural ecosystems. We lament the wildfires that destroy natural communities and threaten human settlements with their uncontrollable power

and force. We grieve the fear that comes from living in so many hot places, and the desperate longing for Fall rains and winds to give some reprieve to the unrelenting forces we have unleashed. We grieve for the truth spoken by our youth, that Planet Earth, our very home is on fire. We lament as we hear the cries of fire...

(Sacred Circle Liturgy, alt.)

Lord, have mercy (x4)

Holy Spirit rest upon us

teach us how to tend to creation

Holy Spirit rest upon us

guide us from our path of destruction

We honour the pain of your human creatures...

Silence is kept

We lament the 65 million+ displaced people who have fled their homelands and become climate migrants because of humans rights abuse, and environmental disasters intensified by climate crisis. For the violence that tears apart families communities and countries and the devastation brought to the earth and it's people as a result of war.

We remember those in Uganda, Kenya and other parts of sub-Saharan Africa, whose livelihoods are in danger due to extended drought and flooding on their farms from climate change, places facing unprecedented drought periods are and for communities in India who are slipping into food insecurity and malnutrition because of unstable planting and harvesting seasons from flash floods.

We lament the loss of home, culture and language of Indigenous people across this earth and for the silencing of

voices that spoke for right relationship with the earth and its people. We lament as we hear the cries of the human ones...

Lord, have mercy (x4)
Holy Spirit rest upon us
teach us how to tend to creation
Holy Spirit rest upon us
guide us from our path of destruction

We keep vigil for the earth, all creatures, and all those suffering the effects of climate change...

We invite you to participate in naming and offering your grief and pain before the God who listens, who sees, who weeps with us at the state of the Earth...

Stations:

- *You can carry your burden (stones) forward, offering all that weighs you down, offering it in lament and grief, and in hope that God might transform this into light and life (please place your stones on the steps behind the altar).*
- *You can paint your grief into part of our art installation.*
- *You can write and weave your prayers of lament.*
- *You can come for anointing and healing prayer.*
- *You can quietly sing and pray as you are led.*

Song: All Creatures Lament

The Porter's Gate Worship Project, Climate Vigil Songs, 2022.

Song: By Night

By Night we hasten in darkness to seek for the living water
Only our thirst lights us onward. (X2)

Simply Taizé, 2014 Integrity Music.

Song: In Labour All Creation Groans

In labour all creation groans till fear and hatred cease,
Till human hearts come to believe: In Christ alone is peace.
Chorus: Be our Peace (X3) Christ our Peace.

In labour all creation groans till prejudice shall cease,
Till every race and tribe and tongue in Christ will live in
peace. *Chorus*

In labour all creation groans till rape and murder cease,
Till women walk by night unharmed and Christ is this
world's peace. *Chorus*

In labour all creation groans till false divisions cease,
Till enemies are reconciled in Christ who is our peace.
Chorus

from Lamentations by Bifrost Arts Music, 2016.

Gathering Prayer

Creator of earth and of all earth's creatures, **We turn to you for guidance as we look on our hurting planet, and pray that it is not too late for us to serve our wounded world. We have been so careless. We have failed to nurture the fragile life you have entrusted to our keeping. We beg your forgiveness and we ask to begin again. Be with us in our commitment to this earth. Amen.**

Miriam Therese Winter, alt.

Lighting candles of Hope

However much we might often rush forward into action – or however much we might feel paralyzed by despair – there is power that comes from honoring the truth and weeping over

the depth of the Earth's pain. As we pause to do so – we are standing in need of light to break in. Our longing for healing brings us to this place – of naming our need for Hope.

The light reminds us that we are not alone. We are linked to one other and to the Source of Life which burns bright in Creation, which burns bright in Christ, which burns bright in this beloved Community. We are Connected, Held, Made Whole, Interwoven, by a mystery that beckons us even now...

And together, with the Spirit's flame, we will rise.

Each candle reminds us of the countless generations that have lived before and brought us to this day. For the water protectors and climate activists, for elders and youth who have spoken words of hope and compassion, wisdom, and love. **Together, with the Spirit's flame, we will rise.**

May the light of Christ cause our hearts to burn within us. Friends, you are forgiven, reconciled to God. Be at Peace.

Amen.

As you light candles of Hope, we also invite you to take a bulb of garlic from the altar. Bury this (or eat it!) in prayer and as a sign of hope for God's good creation. May the mystery of this tiny bulb train our eyes, our ears, our tongues, our minds, our hearts to see signs of this holy healing work in our time.

The Offertory: This Little Light of Mine

This little light of mine, I'm gonna let it shine x3
Let it shine, let it shine, let it shine

Everywhere I go, I'm gonna let it shine...

When I see my neighbour coming, I'm gonna let it shine...

Jesus gave it to me, I'm gonna let it shine...

African-American traditional

WE CELEBRATE

The Holy Eucharist

The Lord be with You. **And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts. **We lift them to the Lord**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God!

It is right to give God thanks and praise.

Holy God how wonderful is the work of your hands

...Glory to you forever and ever ...with all creation we sing...

Holy Holy Holy Lord God of power and might Heaven and earth are full of your glory Hosanna in the highest

Blessed is the One who comes in the name of the Lord Hosanna in the highest.

As Jesus was eating with his disciples...

...Glory to you forever and ever

As supper was ending Jesus took the wine...

...Glory to you forever and ever

Holy God we give you thanks for the mystery of faith given to us in Jesus your child. **Christ has died Christ is Risen**

Christ will come again. X2

Send your Holy Spirit upon us and upon these gifts...**Amen**

The Prayer of Jesus

Nurturing God, present in the entire cosmos,

Blessed are your names: Life and Love.

May your way of love and your desire for life be accessible to all creatures, all lands, all waters, and skies. Provide for us all that we need for life, through healthy soil and water, abundant gardens, food forests, and sustainable agriculture. Forgive us when we exploit the earth, over-fish the seas, pollute the skies, and generally overstep healthy boundaries with our neighbours. Move us into living a way of peace that heals the heart of all creation and repairs the fabric of life.

Lead us away from greedy ways: lives of consumerism and excess, and deliver us from apathy and inaction. For we want to be faithful to your vision of a life of kinship, reconciliation, and love. Today and each new day. Amen.

"An Ecological Lord's Prayer" @burningbushforestchurch

Silence is kept.

These are the gifts of God, for the people of God, given for the life of the world. **Thanks be to God! Amen.**

All are welcome to receive at Jesus' table! The bread is gluten-free. It may contain dairy and/or almond flour. If you'd like a dairy or nut free option, please let the presider know. Juice is in the small cups. Wine is in the common cup, please do not dip the bread into the cup.

Eat this Bread

Eat this bread, drink this cup,
come to me and never be hungry.
Eat this bread, drink this cup,
trust in me and you will not thirst.

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Now Thank We All

Now thank we all our God
In whom this Earth rejoices,
For creatures great and small
Who now have lost their voices;
And species calling us
Before they disappear,
To love this fragile Earth
That God would have us share.

O may this bounteous God
In ev'ry tree be near us

To help us feel the pain
Of barren lands so cheerless,
Where once like Eden fresh,
Wild birds in freedom flew
To celebrate a land,
Where life rose crystal new.

O Spirit from the land
Rise up like sacred leaven
o free us from the ills
Polluting Earth and heaven;
Inspire us with the drive
To be like healing rain,
Renewing life on Earth
And praising God again.

Words: © Norman Habel 1991 Melody: Now Thank We All Our God

Blessing

May God bless us with wonder at creation's glory.
May God bless us with fury at creation's spoiling.
May God bless us with courage at this critical hour.
And may the blessing of God, rest upon us and on all of
creation, this night and for the future to come. **Amen.**

WE ARE SENT INTO CREATION

Closing Song: We Shall Not Be Moved

We shall not, we shall not be moved (2x)
Just like a tree that's planted by the water
We shall not be moved

When our cross is heavy, we shall not be moved...
In our Christ abiding, we shall not be moved...
In God's love we're hiding, we shall not be moved...

Though the tempest rages, we shall not be moved...

On the Rock of Ages, we shall not be moved...

We shall not, we shall not be moved...

African-American traditional

Tend the earth, care for God's good creation,
and bring forth the fruits of justice and love.

Go in the peace of Christ!

Thanks be to God. Alleluia!

Bell x 3

Sources: Church of England Prayer Vigil, #ClimateVigil Liturgy, Sacred Circle Liturgy for Climate Crisis, www.rememberingthechildren.com, Rev. Dr. Wilda C. Gafney, Jim Cotter, Miriam Therese Winter, Porter's Gate Worship Project. Prayers for the Climate and Ecological Emergency-Jon Swales. Altered and edited by the AbbeyChurch team.



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We would love to connect!

Call, text or email to set up a coffee or walk.