

What Is the Season of Creation?

In the seasons of Advent, Epiphany, Lent and Easter we celebrate the life of Christ. In the season of Pentecost, we celebrate the Holy Spirit. Now, in the season of Creation, we have an opportunity to celebrate God, the Creator.

For four Sundays this August, prior to the observance of Creation Day on September 1st, we join in celebrating with creation. We celebrate Christ, the creator, and the wonders of creation. In the liturgy, we follow the lead of the psalm writers and celebrate with creation — with the forests, the rivers and the fields, which praise the Creator in their own way.

Bible readings focus especially on the story of Earth, which complements the story of God and the story of humanity in the Scriptures.

We commit ourselves to a ministry of healing Earth, with Christ and creation as our partners.

The Season of Creation CHARTER

In the Season of Creation, we will:

1. **Celebrate** Earth as a sacred planet filled with God's vibrant presence.
2. **Unite** with all creation in praising the God of creation.
3. **Confess** our sins against creation and empathise with a groaning creation.
4. **Embrace** our kin in creation as our extended family.
5. **Proclaim** the good news that the risen Jesus is the cosmic Christ who fills and renews all creation.
6. **Go forth** on a mission to be partners with Christ in the healing of creation.

Why a Season of Creation?

There is growing concern in Christian communities about the **ecological crisis** and the way human beings are treating God's Earth. Planet Earth is in peril. All creation is suffering.

An effective way to focus these concerns is through worship. By concentrating our worship on God's creation and our relationship with creation, we can seek ways to heal rather than exploit creation. The season of Creation helps us care for our planet home rather than destroy it.

The Christ Connection

*The season of Creation is part the heritage of mainstream Christian worship. **There is no break from the gospel as the core of our faith. Nor do the liturgies reflect a New Age orientation.** Christ is at the heart of our celebrations. The cosmic Christ is the new life at the core of creation. In the season of Creation, we celebrate Christ together with creation, we face the ecological crisis with Christ, and we serve Christ in the healing of creation.*

O for a Thousand Trees

O for a thousand trees to sing, and join with us this day,
With ferns and frogs and butterflies: A forest hymn of praise.

Come celebrate with all the land, let species rare begin,
With geese and owls and cockatoo: A choir of country kin.

How can we hear creation groan, and feel the world in pain?
With forest creatures we rejoice when Earth is born again.

Let ev'ry stream and river flow in song to-ward the sea;
With whale, and seal and albatross, we lift our praise to Thee!

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Melody: O For a Thousand Tongues