

REDEEMER DAY OF PRAYER: August 1, 2022: CREATION

(prayers by members of Redeemer)

Good and gracious God, this day and every day we thank you for always welcoming us to come to you in prayer: for sharing with you our gratitude; our concerns and hopes for ourselves, others, and our world; our joys and our fears; and even our anger. In the name of Jesus, we pray. Amen.

For music by Redeemer's choir, [click here](#).

"Veni Sancte Spiritus" Taize ELW 406; "Let My Prayer Rise Up", Holden Evening Prayer;
"Jesus, Remember Me" Taize ELW 616

Dear Father, give us the wisdom we need to use your creation wisely. Help us repair our broken Earth through new technologies, laws that protect the environment, and a strong will to safeguard what you have given us. Help us provide developing countries with economic alternatives to industries that produce pollution and let us better understand and acknowledge its serious health related effects on workers and populations. Amen.

Lord, we ask for protection for those displaced by storms, floods, tornadoes, hurricanes, drought, and other destructive forms of weather. Help us develop better warning systems and stronger materials that can withstand great forces of nature. Let us have open hearts to help those who suffer adverse economic effects from natural disasters. Give us the wisdom to know how human actions affect our weather patterns. Amen.

Gracious God, help us to realize that each one of us has an important role to play to protecting the environment. Give us the knowledge to be more aware of our suffering environment and the wisdom to repair it. Amen.

Oh God our creator,

We thank you for the sun which appears each morning. We are grateful it reminds us of Christ Jesus' resurrection which brings assurance of your promise of life forever with You.

Praise and thanksgiving be yours, O God.

We thank you for the sun that faithfully gives energy essential to plants and gives us light and warmth.

Praise and thanksgiving be yours, O God.

We thank you for the beauty of the trees and all the plants that use the sun for photosynthesis. We see the beauty and know that the plants make food for us and for all living things both big and small.

Praise and thanksgiving be yours, O God.

We thank you for the beauty of the earth, the complex web of life in the soil. We thank you for the ground which holds us up and which holds the roads and buildings that we use.

Praise and thanksgiving be yours, O God.

We thank you for the beauty of the sky, the air that keeps us, and all living things alive. We thank you for the quiet and beauty of the night sky, showing us our place in the universe. We thank you for the beauty of the moon and stars which give us light and encourages us to dream and imagine.

Praise and thanksgiving be yours, O God.

We thank you for the beauty of rain and clouds which are necessary for all life on this earth.

Praise and thanksgiving be yours, O God.

We thank you for the beauty and the depths of the ocean, filled with life and a source of food for all living things.

Praise and thanksgiving be yours, O God.

We ask that you make us all aware of how people through the ages have mis-used our earth, creating pollution, and depleting the richness of the soil. Make us aware of how the presence of people has depleted the ocean's bounty and created waste for its living things.

We ask for forgiveness and guidance, O God

We ask you to guide and bless all those who work to replenish the earth, to clean the waters, and to clean the air. We ask you to guide and bless the scientists working to help alleviate the climate changes that have caused fires and floods. We ask you to bless and guide those inventors who work to find sustainable solutions to the problems the people have caused. We ask you to guide and bless the leaders who set policy to heal the earth. We ask you to guide and bless all of us to learn how to care for this earth and live responsibly in using our resources.

Bless us and help us, O God.

Oh God, we ask to help us stand still to notice and to learn from Your creation and the beauty of it, the purpose of it, and the ways we can preserve and honor your creation. We are grateful for this world that gives us joy and life.

Bless us and help us, O God.

Amen.

O God, our creator,

You created the world and saw that it was good. You walked in the first garden in the cool of the evening so your presence is in the pleasures that the natural world brings.

We thank you for the beauty of the earth and the breath that the skies above us give. We thank you for the night, the moon and stars. Let the rising of the sun renew and remind us of Christ Jesus' resurrection and promise of eternal life in You.

Guide us to take pleasure in this earth that you have created. Guide us to participate in healing this earth that you have given us. Guide us toward restoring the resources that we have often carelessly depleted. Bless and guide all those scientists working to establish the ways to refurbish the soil and grow enough food to feed the people. Bless and guide the leaders who take responsibility for making policy decisions that affect the natural world. Guide and help us as we try to restore the destruction that global climate changes bring.

Watch over us, protect us and keep us, and help us to serve you in gratitude.

Amen.

Almighty and everlasting God, blessed Father, Son and Holy Spirit, you who uttered the Holy Word to birth everything-- setting the stars in their courses, shaping matter to be life, and sculpting humanity to be a reflection of your divine goodness and love—receive our humble thanksgivings for all Creation. We bless you for daily bread, for the spaces in which to live, for the wonders of the day, for tiny creatures who buzz, for majestic animals who soar and roar, for seed and field, for harvest and bounty. For all these things and so much more, we praise and thank you, gracious God.

As you have given and blessed us, grant that we continue to learn and humbly receive new teaching on how we might be better stewards of your Creation. Grant that we might hear wisdom and live accordingly both in our private and corporate lives. Grant that our Leaders would be inspired by your Spirit to create and enact policies which would faithfully care for this world.

Grant also, gracious God, that you would soften human hearts in order that we all might recognize our connections with each other and live accordingly. Open our eyes that we might understand how our care for your creation impacts others. Help us to repent of those attitudes and policies which directly harm the environment or our brothers and sisters. Help us to embrace good and noble actions which reflect your glory.

These things we offer up to you, O Blessed Trinity, through the eternal Son and in the power of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Gracious Creator, you have set us on a planet filled with all the things we need. Forgive us for abusing this gift, being careless with this gift, and for being selfish with this gift.

Holy Spirit, guide us and teach us how to repair the damage we have done to this planet and help us to do the work that must be done.

God, turn the hearts of governments to make them willing to work together to restore balance to our world.

Help us all work together to better distribute the resources you have given us so that all may enjoy the blessings of your creation.

Amen.

Dear Heavenly Father, Creator of the Universe, I am filled with awe and wonder at all that you have made. Each morning I welcome the dawn of a new day. As I hear the birds singing, smell the scent of grass and flowers; and see the garden growing, I thank you for your creation. In this season of planting, I pray for sun and rain enough to make the plants that nourish us grow. I pray that you will bring rain to areas where there is drought, cooling breezes to areas of excessive heat, calmness where violent storms abound.

Lord, bless this earth. Heal the hurts brought upon it by our careless ways. Nudge us when we forget, Lord, that we live in partnership with this earth and that we must each do our part to care for it. In Jesus name I pray. Amen.

Father Almighty, creator of all that surrounds and sustains us, we see your creation, but we do not understand it.

We exploit your creation, but do not know how to preserve and replace it.

We pride ourselves on having discovered how your creations work, but we have no idea of how much of your creation, here and elsewhere, remains hidden from us.

Lord, we continue to use your creations in the only ways that we know, by doing and using more of the same, whereas what we need is to understand those things in your creation that we have not yet seen or imagined, and that are not calculated in finite sums. Just as in centuries past we interpreted your creation to exploit it to our advantage, so now we are in need of new sciences so that we can better understand our intended place in your universe. Give us, Lord, a new understanding of your creation. Let faith, not just science, lead us to those creations that remain undiscovered and show us how we can exist in balance with them. Amen.

Psalms 104

¹ Bless the Lord, O my soul.
 O Lord my God, you are very great.
 You are clothed with honor and majesty,
² wrapped in light as with a garment.
 You stretch out the heavens like a tent;
³ you set the beams of your chambers on the waters;
 you make the clouds your chariot;
 you ride on the wings of the wind;
⁴ you make the winds your messengers,
 fire and flame your ministers.

⁵ You set the earth on its foundations,
 so that it shall never be shaken.
⁶ You cover it with the deep as with a garment;
 the waters stood above the mountains.
⁷ At your rebuke they flee;
 at the sound of your thunder they take to flight.
⁸ They rose up to the mountains, ran down to the valleys,
 to the place that you appointed for them.
⁹ You set a boundary that they may not pass,
 so that they might not again cover the earth.

¹⁰ You make springs gush forth in the valleys;
 they flow between the hills,
¹¹ giving drink to every wild animal;
 the wild asses quench their thirst.
¹² By the streams the birds of the air have their habitation;
 they sing among the branches.
¹³ From your lofty abode you water the mountains;
 the earth is satisfied with the fruit of your work.

¹⁴ You cause the grass to grow for the cattle
 and plants for people to cultivate,
 to bring forth food from the earth
¹⁵ and wine to gladden the human heart,
 oil to make the face shine
 and bread to strengthen the human heart.
¹⁶ The trees of the field are watered abundantly,
 the cedars of Lebanon that he planted.
¹⁷ In them the birds build their nests;
 the stork has its home in the fir trees.
¹⁸ The high mountains are for the wild goats;
 the rocks are a refuge for the coneys.
¹⁹ You have made the moon to mark the seasons;
 the sun knows its time for setting.
²⁰ You make darkness, and it is night,
 when all the animals of the forest come creeping out.
²¹ The young lions roar for their prey,

seeking their food from God.

²² When the sun rises, they withdraw
and lie down in their dens.

²³ People go out to their work
and to their labor until the evening.

²⁴ O Lord, how manifold are your works!
In wisdom you have made them all;
the earth is full of your creatures.

²⁵ There is the sea, great and wide;
creeping things innumerable are there,
living things both small and great.

²⁶ There go the ships
and Leviathan that you formed to sport in it.

²⁷ These all look to you
to give them their food in due season;

²⁸ when you give to them, they gather it up;
when you open your hand, they are filled with good things.

²⁹ When you hide your face, they are dismayed;
when you take away their breath, they die
and return to their dust.

³⁰ When you send forth your spirit, they are created,
and you renew the face of the ground.

³¹ May the glory of the Lord endure forever;
may the Lord rejoice in his works—

³² who looks on the earth and it trembles,
who touches the mountains and they smoke.

³³ I will sing to the Lord as long as I live;
I will sing praise to my God while I have being.

³⁴ May my meditation be pleasing to him,
for I rejoice in the Lord.

³⁵ Let sinners be consumed from the earth,
and let the wicked be no more.

Bless the Lord, O my soul.

Praise the Lord!

Hymns celebrating creation:

“For the Beauty of the Earth” (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PTOfSKXkRa0>)

“Let All Things Now Living” (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KpMCE1G3N7Q>)

“Morning Has Broken” (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5BSWpgB5BZU>)

“This Is My Father’s World” (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0XYLS-AH3uc>)

