Annotated service leaflet for worship leaders only (not for congregation)

Prelude “Bright Morning Star” (Traditional Appalachian hymn, arranged by Court Dorsey, new words by Fred Small)  Led by Fred Small

Welcome & Invitation to Worship  Led by Doug Fisher

Leader offers some words of welcome as Christians from different branches of the Jesus movement gather to celebrate God’s Creation and to reaffirm our call to protect it. Leader notes that the opening words of the service are found in the service leaflet. Leader invites congregation to stand as they are able.

Leader: The God of heaven has made a home on earth.
All: Christ dwells among us and is one with us.

Leader: God sets a rainbow in the clouds
All: And remembers the everlasting covenant between God and every living creature on the earth.

Leader: Come now all who thirst
All: And drink the water of life.

Leader: Come now all who hunger
All: And be filled with good things.

Leader: Come now all who seek
All: And be warmed by the fire of love.

Song “Noah's Cargo” (Tune: “Jacob's Ladder,” African-American spiritual, new words by Fred Small)  Led by Fred Small

A reading from Genesis 9:8-13, 16  Read by Andrea Ayvazian

Leader: Please be seated. A reading from the Book of Genesis.

God said to Noah and to his sons with him, 9 “As for me, I am establishing my covenant with you and your descendants after you, 10 and with every living creature that is with you, the birds, the domestic animals, and every animal of the earth with you, as many as came out of the ark. 11 I establish my covenant with you, that never again shall all flesh be cut off by the waters of a flood, and never again shall there be a flood to destroy the earth.” 12 God said, “This is the sign of the covenant that I make between me and you and every living creature that is with you, for all future generations: 13 I have set my bow in the clouds, and it shall be a sign of the covenant between me and the earth… 16 When the bow is in the clouds, I will see it and remember the everlasting covenant between God and every living creature of all flesh that is on the earth.”

Leader: Here ends the reading.
A reading from the mystics: Meister Eckhart  
Read by Alan Gates

Leader: A reading from the 14th century Christian mystic, Meister Eckhart.

Apprehend God in all things,  
for God is in all things.

Every single creature is full of God  
and is a book about God.  
Every creature is a word of God.

If I spent enough time with the tiniest creature –  
even a caterpillar –  
I would never have to prepare a sermon.  
So full of God  
is every creature.

Leader: Here ends the reading.

Poem  
Read by Pam Mott

The Wild Geese  
by Wendell Berry

Horseback on Sunday morning,  
harvest over, we taste persimmon  
and wild grape, sharp sweet  
of summer’s end. In time’s maze  
over fall fields, we name names  
that went west from here, names  
that rest on graves. We open  
a persimmon seed to find the tree  
that stands in promise,  
pale, in the seed’s marrow.  
Geese appear high over us,  
pass, and the sky closes. Abandon,  
as in love or sleep, holds  
them to their way, clear,  
in the ancient faith: what we need  
is here. And we pray, not  
for new earth or heaven, but to be  
quiet in heart, and in eye  
clear. What we need is here.

Confession  
Led by Jim Hazelwood

Congregation may remain seated. Leader invites congregation to join in saying the refrain, We have forgotten who we are. Leader explains that he will signal with his hand when it is time to say the refrain.
Leader:
Gracious God,
We have forgotten who we are.
We have alienated ourselves from the unfolding of the cosmos;
We have become estranged from the movement of the earth;
We have turned our backs on the cycles of life.
We have forgotten who we are.

We have sought our own security;
We have exploited simply for our own ends;
We have distorted our knowledge;
We have abused our power.
We have forgotten who we are.

Now the land is barren,
And the waters are poisoned,
And the air is polluted.
We have forgotten who we are.

Now the forests are dying,
And the creatures are disappearing,
And humans are despairing.
We have forgotten who we are.

Merciful God, we ask your forgiveness.
We ask for the gift of remembering.
We ask for the strength to change.
We have forgotten who we are.

Assurance of Pardon
Leader offers an absolution that might include the sentence: Help us, O God, to remember who we are, and whose we are.

Song “Tree of Life” (words and music by Guy Carawan & Luci Murphy, inspired by the spirituality of the South Carolina Sea Islands) Led by Fred Small

Prayer (A Christian prayer in union with creation, by Pope Francis) Led by Christina Leano
Leader says something like: I invite you to remain standing, as you are able, and to join me in a spirit of prayer as I read a prayer from Pope Francis’ encyclical, Laudato Si.

Father, we praise you with all your creatures.
They came forth from your all-powerful hand;
they are yours, filled with your presence and your tender love.
Praise be to you!

Son of God, Jesus,
through you all things were made.
You were formed in the womb of Mary our Mother,
you became part of this earth,
and you gazed upon this world with human eyes.
Today you are alive in every creature
in your risen glory.
Praise be to you!

Holy Spirit, by your light
you guide this world towards the Father’s love
and accompany creation as it groans in travail.
You also dwell in our hearts
and you inspire us to do what is good.
Praise be to you!

Triune Lord, wondrous community of infinite love,
teach us to contemplate you
in the beauty of the universe,
for all things speak of you.
Awaken our praise and thankfulness
for every being that you have made.
Give us the grace to feel profoundly joined
to everything that is.

God of love, show us our place in this world
as channels of your love
for all the creatures of this earth,
for not one of them is forgotten in your sight.
Enlighten those who possess power and money
that they may avoid the sin of indifference,
that they may love the common good, advance the weak,
and care for this world in which we live.
The poor and the earth are crying out.

O Lord, seize us with your power and light,
help us to protect all life,
to prepare for a better future,
for the coming of your Kingdom
of justice, peace, love and beauty.
Praise be to you!
Amen.

Pledge

Led by Margaret Bullitt-Jonas

*MBJ will introduce this, explaining why we are here, opportunity to renew our commitment to God’s creation.*

*Several people pass pledges out quickly, with green ribbon attached to each. Four bishops move to four corners of the congregation (if we are indoors, four corners of the room).*

*MBJ shows front side of pledge card, explains that we will hear someone read front page slowly, with space for silence. During silence, listen for what you might be called to do, and, if you like, write it down.*
MBJ reads top part of pledge sheet aloud. Each bishop then takes a turn reading a pledge, completing the sentence “In particular” in his own words... followed by 20-30 seconds of silence. After all 4 pledges have been read aloud, MBJ completes the process. Then she invites each person to turn to neighbor: ask your neighbor to tie a green ribbon to your wrist as a reminder of the pledge you've made (we can't do this alone; we're in this together).

Please stand as you are able.  Led by Margaret Bullitt-Jonas

Covenant

We covenant this day with God and all of God’s creation, with what is and what is to be; with every living creature, those that sustain us and those that we sustain; with all that moves upon the earth and with the earth itself, with all that lives in the water and with the water itself, with all that flies through the air and with the air itself. We mark our covenant by the rainbow, as our pledge never again to destroy creation through our greed, negligence, selfishness and sin.  Amen.

Closing prayer  Led by Jim Antal

May God bless us with discomfort... at easy answers, half-truths and superficial relationships, so that you, O God, may live deep within our hearts.

May the Risen Christ bless us with anger... at violence, injustice, oppression and exploitation of people and of God’s Creation, so that we may work as Easter people for peace, eco-justice, and reconciliation with all people and the Earth.

May the Holy Spirit bless us with tears... to shed for all living creatures and growing things suffering from climate change and disasters, so that we may reach out in love as God’s partners to restore and revive Creation.

And may the Holy Trinity bless us with enough faith and foolishness... to believe that we can make a difference in this world, so that we can do what others claim cannot be done.  Amen.

Announcements  Led by MBJ

Please stand as you are able.

Song “The Tide Is Rising”  (words and music by Rabbi Shoshana Meira Friedman & Yotam Schachter)  Led by Fred Small

Dismissal  Led by Doug Fisher

Leader points out that the words of dismissal are on the service leaflet.

Leader: Go in peace, rejoicing in the power of the Spirit. Alleluia, alleluia. All: Thanks be to God. Alleluia, alleluia.