Holy Earth, Holy People: Restoring God's Creation

Holy Eucharist
Diocesan Convention
November 9, 2019
Notes and Thanks

Why a sixteen-page printed leaflet for worship with Creation Care as a theme? That question highlights our everyday tension: balancing finite resources with the needs of the people. With the permission of Bishop Fisher, today's service is compiled from many different sources. We chose to offer a printed booklet so that you can more easily reflect on material that you may be seeing for the first time. We hope that you will take this leaflet home to use in your personal devotions, and as a prompt for creative liturgy in your parish or other worship context. You may also access a PDF of the leaflet on our Diocesan website: www.diocesewma.org.

Thanks to the Rev. Vicki Ix, Missioner for Communications, for the lovely front cover of this booklet. The order of service for Holy Eucharist is found on pages 1-10. Pages 11-13 contain hymns to be sung during our Convention proceedings, as well as some suggestions for music with Creation as a theme. The back cover identifies the participants in today's worship as known by the print deadline.

Please note that the sources used today are carefully cited within the context of the leaflet. This is so that you can find the larger works more easily. We have done our best to honor copyright and licensing requirements, and hope that you will, too! Permissions to reprint service components and music were obtained through RiteSeries.org. Permission to print music and lyrics not found in hymnals of The Episcopal Church was obtained through OneLicense A-729200.

We are especially grateful to the St. Andrew’s Guild (Kathryn Aubry-McAvoy, Diane Kurkulonis, and Molly Scherm) of Ss. James and Andrew in Greenfield, who envisioned and created the beautiful Creation Care banners as a gift to our Diocese. Bill Stroud of Atonement in Westfield made the poles and stands using natural materials and planning for easy portability. The banners may be borrowed for use in your parish. Contact Dean Tom Callard at Christ Church Cathedral to make arrangements.

Many items for worship have been borrowed today. We are grateful to the Altar Guild of Christ Church Cathedral, especially Phyllis and Charlie Larson for bringing holy supplies. Susan Baldwin of St. Andrew’s in Longmeadow brought their font and her considerable design skills. The chalices and patens used today were gifts to each parish in our Diocese at the ordination of our Bishop in 2012. Thanks to St. Andrew’s, Longmeadow; Atonement, Westfield; Christ Church Cathedral; Grace, Amherst; St. John’s, Northampton, and Ss. Andrew and James, Greenfield for sharing theirs.

Many members of Convention have been pressed into service as ushers and Eucharistic ministers. Thank you, all!
Please enter quietly as the music begins our meditations. The People stand at the entrance of the ministers.

Celebrant    Bless the Lord who forgives all our sins.
People     God's mercy endures forever.

Celebrant    Because we view our lives in Christ through the forgiveness we receive from God, I invite us to begin with the Penitential Order.

PENITENTIAL ORDER based on a prayer from U.N. Environmental Sabbath Program
Earth Prayers, ed. Elizabeth Roberts and Elias Amidon
(HarperSanFrancisco, 1991), 70-71

Deacon      Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.
Silence may be kept.

Deacon     We have forgotten who we are.
People    We have alienated ourselves from the unfolding of the cosmos
We have become estranged from the movements of the earth
We have turned our backs on the cycles of life

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

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

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

All     We have forgotten who we are.
We ask forgiveness.
We ask for the gift of remembering.
We ask for the strength to change.
Help us to remember who we are.

Celebrant    Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life. Amen.

The People are seated.
“At this very moment, the Earth is above you, [the Earth is] below you, all around you, and even inside you. The Earth is everywhere… The water in our flesh, [the rock in] our bones, …[we] all… are part of the Earth… We are [part of] the Earth and we… [carry] her within us.”

adapted from Loveletter to the Earth, p. 8
Thich Nhat Hanh

“Everything we need to live a good life is here on this [planet]. Everything we need is here on Mother Earth… She gives us all… we need for life… She supports our feet as we walk… It gives us joy that she… care[s] for us as she has… [since] time [began].”

Haudenosaunee Thanksgiving address

Originally published as: Thanksgiving Address: Greetings to the Natural World. © 1993 Six Nations Indian Museum and The Tracking Project
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Cry out with joy! Fill your heart with gladness! Bring forth a song of praise!
Praise for the planet, gladness for its blessings, and joy in creation!
Alleluia!

The People stand.

THE COLLECT

adapted from Our Modern Services: Anglican Church of Kenya, p. 289

Celebrant May God be with you.
People And also with you.
Celebrant Let us pray.
Loving God, Creator of all,
we thank you for the beauty of Creation;
show us, we pray, how to respect the fragile balance of life.
Guide by your wisdom those who have power
to care for or to destroy the environment,
that by the decisions we make, life may be cherished
and a good and fruitful earth be preserved for future generations;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

A READING

The Gift of Good Land: Further Essays Cultural and Agricultural

To live, we must daily break the body and shed the blood of Creation. When we do this knowingly, lovingly, skillfully, reverently, it is a sacrament. When we do it ignorantly, greedily, clumsily, destructively, it is a desecration. In such desecration we condemn ourselves to spiritual and moral loneliness, and others to want.

Lector Here ends the reading.
The people stand to sing.

HYMN  
Fairest Lord Jesus  
The Hymnal, 1982, 383

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GOSPEL

Deacon  The Holy Gospel of our Savior Jesus Christ according to John.

People  Glory to you, Lord Christ.

Jesus said: “I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly. I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. The hired hand, who is not the shepherd and does not own the sheep, sees the wolf coming and leaves the sheep and runs away—and the wolf snatches them and scatters them. The hired hand runs away because a hired hand does not care for the sheep. I am the good shepherd. I know my own and my own know me, just as the Father knows me and I know the Father. And I lay down my life for the sheep.”

Deacon  The Gospel of Christ.

People  Praise to you, Lord Christ.

THE SERMON

The Rev. Dr. Margaret Bullitt-Jonas  
Missioner for Creation Care
ANTHEM  Hope Is A Verb
Nothing That Is Worth Doing
from A Passion for the Planet
by Geoffrey Hudson, 2019
“Hope is a verb with its sleeves rolled up. Hope is patient. Hope is not passive. Hope is steady
and competent and brave. Hope is a verb with its sleeves rolled up. Hope requires courage.
Hope is practical. Hope is a discipline. Hope is not passive. Hope is patient. Hope requires skill.
And hope is something we do. And with hope, we can create the gyres of positive change, and
that change can redeem the earth.”
adapted from Dangerous Years
David Orr, p. 115

“Nothing that is worth doing can be achieved in our lifetime; therefore we must be saved by
hope; [therefore we must be saved by love]. Nothing we do, however virtuous, can be
accomplished alone; therefore we are saved by love; [therefore we are saved by faith]; [therefore
we shall be saved by hope].”
adapted from The Irony of American History
Reinhold Niebuhr

The People stand to pray.
PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE
adapted, A Litany for the Earth
The Rev. Phina Borgeson
Deacon of the Diocese of North Carolina
Leader  Let us offer our prayers to God who gives life and breath to all creatures, saying,
“God of glory, hear us.”

I ask your prayers for the mission of the church throughout the world,
for sharing the promise of abundant life and working toward it for all.
God of glory, hear us.

I ask your prayers for the leaders of the nations, and for all who make or influence decisions
for the health of our planet and the well-being of its peoples.
God of glory, hear us.

I ask your prayers for peace with justice around the world,
especially for an end to violent competition for limited resources.
God of glory, hear us.

I ask your prayers for those who suffer illness, want, or exile because of environmental degradation.
God of glory, hear us.

I ask your prayers for the environmental concerns that you may lift up now, either silently or aloud.
Silence, during which the people may offer their concerns.
We offer our fears,
God of glory, hear us.

I ask your prayers for those who in their daily work are stewards and protectors of God’s creation in
ways large and small; for gardeners, farmers, and ranchers; for rangers and park managers; for fishers
and foresters; for climate scientists, ecologists, and activists, and for all who work to restore and heal
our wounded Earth.
God of glory, hear us.
I ask your prayers for the dead, especially for those holy women and men who taught us to marvel in all God’s works.

**God of glory, hear us.**

*Celebrant* Creator God, you call us into being. Inspire us with your extravagant generosity, and sustain us with hope in resurrection life. All this we ask in the name of Jesus Christ, the Good Shepherd.

*Amen.*

**THE PEACE**

*Celebrant* Peace with yourself.

Peace with Creation.

Peace with one another.

The peace of Christ be always with you.

*People* And also with you.

**THE OFFERTORY**

Human to Human is a new entity of our Diocese that serves as an umbrella for programs and ministries committed to meeting people facing economic, social support, and service challenges wherever they are in their personal journey of health, recovery, and discovery. These are ministries without a worship component or participation requirement, doing the humanitarian work of Jesus in the world. Human to Human is responsible for fundraising and oversight of Walking Together and Building Bridges as we work to make these successful ministries sustainable. The entity will also provide grants to our congregations doing the same work. It creates an opportunity for religious giving beyond the local congregation.

Today’s offering will go to Human to Human. Please be generous.

WHILE THE OFFERING IS RECEIVED, ALL STAND TO SING.

**HYMN**

Praise to the living God, New Century Hymnal, 8

Tune: Diademata

Praise to the living God, the God of love and light,
Whose word brought forth the myriad suns and set the worlds in flight;
Whose infinite design, which we but dimly see,
Pervades all nature, making all a cosmic unity.

Praise to the living God, from whom all things derive,
Whose Spirit formed upon this sphere the first faint seeds of life;
Who caused them to evolve, unwitting toward God’s goal,
Till humankind stood on the earth, as living, thinking souls.

Praise to the living God, who knows our joy and pain,
Who shares with us our common life, the sacred and profane.
God toils wher-e’re we toil, in home and mart and mill;
And deep within the human heart God leads us forward still.

Praise to the living God, around, within, above,
Beyond the grasp of human mind, but whom we know as love.
In these tumultuous days, so full of hope and strife,
May we bear witness to the Way, O Source and Goal of life.
THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

Enriching Our Worship I
Eucharistic Prayer 3

The people standing, the Celebrant says
Celebrant The Lord be with you.
People And also with you.
Celebrant Lift up your hearts.
People We lift them to the Lord.
Celebrant Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
People It is right to give our thanks and praise.

The Celebrant proceeds
All thanks and praise are yours at all times and in all places, our true and loving God; through Jesus Christ, your eternal Word, the Wisdom from on high by whom you created all things. You laid the foundations of the world and enclosed the sea when it burst out from the womb; You brought forth all creatures of the earth and gave breath to humankind. Wondrous are you, Holy One of Blessing, all you create is a sign of hope for our journey; and so as the morning stars sing your praises we join the heavenly beings and all creation as we shout with joy:

SANCTUS

Santo, santo, santo

Wonder, Love, and Praise, 785

The Celebrant continues
Glory and honor are yours, Creator of all, your Word has never been silent; you called a people to yourself, as a light to the nations; you delivered them from bondage and led them to a land of promise. Of your grace, you gave Jesus to be human, to share our life, to proclaim the coming of your holy reign and give himself for us, a fragrant offering.

Through Jesus Christ our Redeemer, you have freed us from sin, brought us into your life, reconciled us to you, and restored us to the glory you intend for us.

We thank you that on the night before he died for us Jesus took bread, and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, gave it to his friends and said: “Take, eat, this is my Body, broken for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.”

After supper Jesus took the cup of wine, said the blessing, gave it to his friends and said: “Drink this, all of you: this cup is the new Covenant in my Blood, poured out for you and for all for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.”
And so, remembering all that was done for us: the cross, the tomb, the resurrection and ascension, longing for Christ’s coming in glory, and presenting to you these gifts your earth has formed and human hands have made, we acclaim you, O Christ:

Celebrant and People
Dying, you destroyed our death.
Rising, you restored our life.
Christ Jesus, come in glory!

The Celebrant continues
Send your Holy Spirit upon us and upon these gifts of bread and wine that they may be to us the Body and Blood of your Christ. Grant that we, burning with your Spirit’s power, may be a people of hope, justice, and love.

Giver of Life, draw us together in the Body of Christ, and in the fullness of time gather us with all your people into the joy of our true eternal home.

Through Christ and with Christ and in Christ, by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, we worship you our God and Creator, in voices of unending praise.

Celebrant and People
Blessed are you, now and forever. Amen.

And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to say,

Our Father, who art in heaven,
    hallowed be thy Name,
    thy kingdom come,
    thy will be done,
    on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our trespasses,
    as we forgive those
    who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation,
    but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom,
    and the power, and the glory,
    for ever and ever. Amen.

Our Father in heaven,
    hallowed be your Name,
    your kingdom come,
    your will be done,
    on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins
    as we forgive those
    who sin against us.
Save us from the time of trial,
    and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power,
    and the glory are yours,
    now and for ever. Amen.

THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD
Celebrant Behold what you are.
People May we become what we receive.

The Gifts of God for the People of God.

The People receive Communion at the stations appointed around the room. Please note that the station nearest the font is reserved for those who require gluten-free elements.
As the People receive Communion, the hymn is sung

Hymn

Many and great

The Hymnal, 1982, 385

After Communion, the Celebrant says
Let us pray.

The People stand to pray.

God of abundance,
you have fed us with the bread of life and cup of salvation;
you have united us with Christ and one another;
and you have made us one with all your people
in heaven and on earth and with your whole Creation.
Now send us forth in the power of your Spirit,
that we may proclaim your redeeming love to the world
and continue for ever in the risen life of Christ our Savior. Amen.
Holy Earth, Ancient Home

Closing chorale from A Passion for the Planet
© 2019, Geoffrey Hudson

Calmly unstoppable, c. 69

1. Holy earth, ancient home, mother of us all,
2. Hear our pray'r, hear our cry, hear our song of praise.
3. Let us sing, all as one, in the great human choir.

You who grant us all we need, all we need for eternity.
Help us mend what has gone awry, gone awry with the web of life.
Blue-green world in a sea of stars, a sea of stars that forever turns.

Holy earth, so vast and small.
Help us learn your wiser ways.
Holy earth in this holy gyre. Holy earth, our one precious home. Amen.

SENDING

based on a prayer from U.N. Environmental Sabbath Program
Earth Prayers, ed. Elizabeth Roberts and Elias Amidon
(HarperSanFrancisco, 1991), 94-95

Leader As we conclude our service, I invite you to join me in dedicating ourselves to care of the Earth.
We join with the Earth and with each other

People To bring new life to the land
To restore the waters
To refresh the air.

Leader We join with the Earth and with each other

People To renew the forests
To care for the plants
To protect the creatures.
Leader We join with the Earth and with each other

People To celebrate the seas
      To rejoice in the sunlight
      To sing the song of the stars.

Leader We join with the Earth and with each other

People To recreate the human community
      To promote justice and peace
      To remember our children.

Leader We join with the Earth and with each other.

All We join together
      as many and diverse expressions
      of one loving mystery:
      for the healing of the earth
      and the renewal of all life. Amen.

All are invited to proceed to lunch. The convention reconvenes at 12:45 pm.
1. Peace before us, peace behind us, peace under our feet.

2. Love before us, love behind us, love under our feet.

3. Light before us, light behind us, light under our feet.

4. Christ before us, Christ behind us, Christ under our feet.

1, 2, 3, 4, 5.

Peace within us, peace over us, let all around us be peace.

Love within us, love over us, let all around us be love.

Light within us, light over us, let all around us be light.

Christ within us, Christ over us, let all around us be Christ.

6. peace. Let all around us be peace.

6. Let all around us be peace.

5. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.
   Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

6. Peace before us, peace behind us,
   peace under our feet.
   Peace within us, peace over us,
   let all around us be peace. (three times)
Touch the Earth Lightly

1 Touch the earth lightly, use the earth gently,
2 We who endanger, who create hunger,
3 Let there be greening, birth from the burning,
4 God of all living, God of all loving,

nourish the life of the world in our care:
agents of death for all creatures that live,
water that blesses and air that is sweet,
God of the seedling, the snow, and the sun,

gift of great wonder, ours to surrender,
we who would foster clouds of disaster—
health in God's garden, hope in God's children,
teach us, deflect us, Christ reconnect us,

trust for the children tomorrow will bear.
God of our planet, forestall and forgive!
regeneration that peace will complete.
us ing us gently, and making us one.

Words: Shirley Erena Murray, 1931--
Music: Swee Hong Lim, 1963--; arr. Tamryn Parker-Carver, 1970--

New Zealand/Singapore
S.S.10.D.
AI HU
All creatures, worship God most high!

1 All creatures, worship God most high!
   Sound every voice in earth and sky:
   Alleluia! Alleluia!
   Sing, brother sun, in splendor bright,
   sing, sister moon and stars of night:

   Chorus
   Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia,
   alleluia, alleluia!

2 Sing, brother wind; with clouds and rain
   you grow the gifts of fruit and grain:
   Alleluia! Alleluia!
   Dear sister water, useful, clear,
   make music for your Lord to hear: (chorus)

3 Sing, brother fire, so mirthful, strong;
   drive far the shadows, join the throng:
   Alleluia! Alleluia!
   Dear mother earth, so rich in care,
   praise God in colors bright and rare: (chorus)

4 All who for love of God forgive,
   all who in pain or sorrow grieve:
   Alleluia! Alleluia!
   Christ bears your burdens and your fears;
   still make your song amid the tears: (chorus)

5 And you, most gentle sister death,
   waiting to hush our final breath:
   Alleluia! Alleluia!
   Since Christ our light has pierced your gloom,
   fair is the night that leads us home. (chorus)

6 O sisters, brothers, take your part,
   and worship God with humble heart:
   Alleluia! Alleluia!
   All creatures, bless the Father, Son,
   and Holy Spirit Three in One: (chorus)

Music for Creation Care
From hymnals of The Episcopal Church

All Creatures of Our God and King: The Hymnal 1982 - #400  (note the updated lyrics, above)
All Things Bright and Beautiful: The Hymnal 1982 - #405
Come Ye Thankful People come: The Hymnal 1982 - #290
Earth and All Stars: The Hymnal 1982 - #412
Father Eternal, Ruler of Creation: The Hymnal 1982 - #573
Fairest Lord Jesus: The Hymnal 1982 - #383
For the Beauty of the Earth: The Hymnal 1982 - #416
For the Fruit of All Creation: The Hymnal 1982 - #424
From all That Dwell Below the Skies: The Hymnal 1982 - #380
From the Dawning of Creation: Wonder, Love, and Praise - #748
God the Sculptor of the Mountains: Wonder, Love, and Praise - #746
Here I am Lord: Wonder, Love, and Praise - #812
Immortal, Invisible God Only Wise: The Hymnal 1982 - #423
Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee: The Hymnal 1982 - #599
Lord Make Us Servants of Your Peace: The Hymnal 1982 - #593
Many and Great, O Lord are Thy Works: The Hymnal 1982 - #385
Morning Has Broken: The Hymnal 1982 - #8
O Love of God How Strong and True: The Hymnal 1982 - #455
The Church of Christ in Every Age: Wonder, Love, and Praise - #779
The Desert Shall Rejoice: Wonder, Love, and Praise - #722
The Whole Bright World rejoices Now: The Hymnal 1982 - #211
We Gather Together to Ask the Lord’s Blessing: The Hymnal 1982 - #433
When Morning Gilds the Skies: The Hymnal 1982 - #427
MINISTERS OF THE LITURGY

Worship Design Team

Deacons
The Rev. Audrey Cronin
The Rev. Terry Hurlbut
The Rev. Patricia M. O’Connell
The Rev. Dianne Wilson

Lector
Wende Wheeler
Secretary of Convention

Intercessor
Andrew Wickline

Preacher
The Rev. Dr. Margaret Bullitt-Jonas
Missioner for Creation Care

Celebrant
The Rt. Rev. Dr. Douglas J. Fisher
IX Bishop of Western Massachusetts

Music Director
Scott A. Bailey
The Episcopal Church of the Atonement

Musicians
Geoffrey Hudson
Composer and Conductor

Choir
Alisa Pearson, soprano solo

Soprano
Susannah Branch
Anna Feldman
Pam Hanold
Annie Phillips
Emily Samuels

Alto
Suzanna Adams
Virginia Bailey
Saxon Elliott
Whitney Lyman
Ellen Mutter
Sarah Metcalf
Lisa Ruch
Nina Wurgaft

Tenor
Donnie Cotter
Benjiman Durfee
Dan Inglis
David Olsson
Kyle Pruett
Aidan Talbot

Bass
Brit Albritton
Adrian Fabos
John Hanold
John Healy
Colin Mann
Peter Shea
Phil Stoddard
John Thomas
Lawrence Winship
Karl Zimmerman

Instrumentalists
Ellen Redman, flute
Kirsten Lipkins, oboe
Hannah Berube, clarinet
Sarah Perrin, horn
Tim Burns, horn

Brian Diehl, bass trombone
Laura Arpiainen, violin
Michelle Liechti, violin
Gregory Diehl, viola
Wayne Smith, cello
David Casali, bass