

Christ Episcopal Church of Guilford

Wednesday, May 20, 2020 Rogation Day: Stewardship of Creation

An Order of Worship for the Evening

7:00 in the evening

The church is dark, or partially so, when the service is to begin.

Prelude: Allegretto (from Six short preludes and postludes) op. 101.1

C. V. Stanford

The Officiant greets the people with these words

Officiant Alleluia! Christ is risen.

People **The Lord is risen indeed. Alleluia!**

Opening Sentences:

In the beginning when God created the heavens and the earth, the earth was a formless void and darkness covered the face of the deep, while a wind from God swept over the face of the waters. Then God said, "Let there be light"; and there was light. And God saw that the light was good; and God separated the light from the darkness. God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. And there was evening and there was morning, the first day. . . . Then God said, "Let us make humankind in our image, according to our likeness; and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the wild animals of the earth, and over every creeping thing that creeps upon the earth."

So God created humankind in God's own image,

in the image of God he created them;

male and female God created them. . . .

God saw everything that he had made, and indeed, it was very good.

Genesis 1:1-5, 26-27, 31a

Let us pray:

Eternal God, who led your ancient people into freedom by a pillar of cloud by day and a pillar of fire by night: Grant that we who walk in the light of your presence may rejoice in the liberty of the children of God; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

Opening Hymn #292 O Jesus, crowned with all renown

Kingsfold

**O Jesus, crowned with all renown, since thou the earth hast trod,
thou reignest and by thee come down henceforth the gifts of God.
Thine is the health and thine the wealth that in our halls abound,
and thine the beauty and the joy with which the years are crowned.**

**Lord, in their change, let frost and heat, and winds and dews be given;
all fostering power, all influence sweet, breathe from the bounteous heaven.**

**At temper fair with gentle air the sunshine and the rain,
that kindly earth with timely birth may yield her fruits again:**

**that we may feed the poor aright, and, gathering round thy throne,
here, in the holy angel's sight, repay thee of thine own:**

**That we may praise thee all our days, and with the Father's Name,
and with the Holy Spirit's gifts, the Savior's love proclaim.**

Then the Lord answered Job out of the whirlwind:

‘Who is this that darkens counsel by words without knowledge?

Gird up your loins like a man,

I will question you, and you shall declare to me.

‘Where were you when I laid the foundation of the earth?

Tell me, if you have understanding.

Who determined its measurements—surely you know!

Or who stretched the line upon it?

On what were its bases sunk,

or who laid its cornerstone

when the morning stars sang together

and all the heavenly beings shouted for joy?

‘Or who shut in the sea with doors

when it burst out from the womb?—

when I made the clouds its garment,

and thick darkness its swaddling band,

and prescribed bounds for it,

and set bars and doors,

and said, “Thus far shall you come, and no farther,

and here shall your proud waves be stopped”?

‘Have you entered into the springs of the sea,

or walked in the recesses of the deep?

Have the gates of death been revealed to you,

or have you seen the gates of deep darkness?

Have you comprehended the expanse of the earth?

Declare, if you know all this.

Officiant: The word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 104: 1, 13-19, 25-32 **Prayed responsively.**

BCP p. 735-7

1 Bless the LORD, O my soul; *

O LORD my God, how excellent is your greatness!

you are clothed with majesty and splendor.

13 You water the mountains from your dwelling on high; *

the earth is fully satisfied by the fruit of your works.

14 You make grass grow for flocks and herds *

and plants to serve mankind;

15 That they may bring forth food from the earth, *

and wine to gladden our hearts,

16 Oil to make a cheerful countenance, *

and bread to strengthen the heart.

- 17 The trees of the LORD are full of sap, *
the cedars of Lebanon which he planted,
- 18 In which the birds build their nests, *
and in whose tops the stork makes his dwelling.
- 19 The high hills are a refuge for the mountain goats, *
and the stony cliffs for the rock badgers.
- 25 O LORD, how manifold are your works! *
in wisdom you have made them all;
the earth is full of your creatures.
- 26 Yonder is the great and wide sea with its living things too many to number, *
creatures both small and great.
- 27 There move the ships, and there is that Leviathan, *
which you have made for the sport of it.
- 28 All of them look to you *
to give them their food in due season.
- 29 You give it to them; they gather it; *
you open your hand, and they are filled with good things.
- 30 You hide your face, and they are terrified; *
you take away their breath, and they die and return to their dust.
- 31 You send forth your Spirit, and they are created; *
and so you renew the face of the earth.
- 32 May the glory of the LORD endure for ever; *
may the LORD rejoice in all his work

Litany for the Sacred Earth

Beloved God, known to your creation by a thousand different names, we thank you for giving us power through your Spirit to reveal your life to the world:

Strengthen, bless, and guide all that we do.

We thank you for your creation, and pray for the earth that you have given us to cherish and protect:

Nourish us in your love for all that you have made.

Every part of this earth is sacred; every shining pine needle, every sandy shore.

Every mist in the dark woods; every clearing and every humming insect is holy,

The rocky crest, the juices of the meadow, the beasts and all the people,

All belong to the same family.

Teach your children that the earth is our mother. Whatever befalls the earth befalls the children of earth.

The earth's murmur is the voice of our father's father.

We are part of the earth and the earth is part of us.

The rivers are our brothers; they quench our thirst.

The perfumed flowers are our sisters.

The air is precious, for we all share the same breath.

The wind that gave our grandparents breath also receives their last sigh, Give our children the spirit of life.

This we know, the earth does not belong to us; we belong to the earth.

This we know: all things are connected, like the blood that unites one family.

All things are connected.

Our God is the same God whose compassion is equal for all,

For we did not weave the web of life; we are merely strands of it.

Whatever we do to the web, we do to ourselves.

Let us give thanks for the web of life in the circle that connects us.

Thanks be to God, the God of all, the God known by a thousand names.

Amen. *(Attributed to Chief Seattle)*

from God's Good Earth: Praise & Prayer for Creation. Compiled and edited by Anne & Jeffrey Rowthorn, pp. 17-19. Collegetown, MN: Liturgical Press. 2018

The Concluding Prayer

Creating God, in you everything on Earth and in the heavens is bound together in perfect harmony. If we lose the sweetness of the waters, we lose the life of the land. If we lose the life of the land, we lose the majesty of the forest. If we lose the majesty of the forest, we lose the purity of the air. If we lose the purity of the air, we lose the creatures of the Earth. Open our eyes to behold your creation. Create in us a new spirit of awareness of our place in your delicate balance; transform our hearts that we may reclaim our sense of awe and wonder. Quicken our understanding that we may acknowledge our responsibility and strengthen our resolve to work with you for the healing of your creation; through our Holy God, Savior of the world. **Amen.** *(Inspired by the Earth Charter)*

Intercessions, petitions and thanksgivings may be offered at this time.

The Officiant and People say together

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 in the time of trial
and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours,
now and forever. *Amen.*

COLLECT OF THE DAY: For Stewardship of Creation

BCP, p.259

O merciful Creator, your hand is open wide to satisfy the needs of every living creature: Make us always thankful for your loving providence; and grant that we, remembering the account that we must one day give, may be faithful stewards of your good gifts; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who with you and the Holy Spirit lives and reigns, one God, for every and ever. *Amen.*

A Prayer For our Country

BCP p.820

Almighty God, who hast given us this good land for our heritage: We humbly beseech thee that we may always prove ourselves a people mindful of thy favor and glad to do thy will. Bless our land with honorable industry, sound learning, and pure manners. Save us from violence, discord, and confusion; from pride and arrogance, and from every evil way. Defend our liberties, and fashion into one united people the multitudes brought hither out of many kindreds and tongues. Endue with the spirit of wisdom those to whom in thy Name we entrust the authority of government, that there may be justice and peace at home, and that, through obedience to thy law, we may show forth thy praise among the nations of the earth. In the time of prosperity, fill our hearts with thankfulness, and in the day of trouble, suffer not our trust in thee to fail; all which we ask through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

The Officiant concludes with the following

Let us pray.

Blessed are you, O Lord, the God of our fathers, creator of the changes of day and night, giving rest to the weary, renewing the strength of those who are spent, bestowing upon us occasions of song in the evening. As you have protected us in the day that is past, so be with us in the coming night; keep us from every sin, every evil, and every fear; for you are our light and salvation, and the strength of our life. To you be glory for endless ages. *Amen.*

Closing Hymn: #398 I sing the almighty power of God

Forest green

**I sing the almighty power of God, that made the mountains rise,
that spread the flowing seas abroad and built the lofty skies.**

**I sing the wisdom that ordained the sun to rule the day;
the moon shines full at his command, and all the stars obey.**

**I sing the goodness of the Lord, that filled the earth with food;
he formed the creatures with his Word, and then pronounced them good.**

**Lord, how thy wonders are displayed, where'er I turn my eye,
if I survey the ground I tread, or gaze upon the sky!**

There's not a plant or flower below, but makes thy glories known;

**and clouds arise, and tempests blow, by order from thy throne;
while all that borrows life from thee is ever in thy care,
and everywhere that I could be, thou, God, art present there.**

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, be with us all evermore. *Amen.*

Officiant: Let us bless the Lord. Alleluia, alleluia!

People: **Thanks be to God. Alleluia, alleluia!**

Postlude: Pastorale II BWV 590

J. S. Bach

