

<p style="text-align: center;">Service of Prayer and Reflection Use appropriate symbols, colours, candles, music etc.,</p>

Creation Hymn

OPENING PRAYERS

Leader: 'Whoever benefits from the world without first blessing God is as if they robbed God or violated God's property.'
Let us bless God, to acknowledge that nothing in nature is to be taken for granted.

Leader: Blessed are you O God,
maker of heaven and earth,
giver of all good things.

All: Creation sings your praises

Leader: Blessed are you O Christ,
Son of God eternal
Bringer of good news to the poor.

All: Creation cries out for your justice

Leader: Blessed are you O Holy Spirit,
Giver of life and renewal,
Uniting us in worship and service.

All: Creation longs for your wisdom.

Creating God, your name is written in every leaf, every bird, every river, every living being.
Thank you for calling us by name.
Thanks you for your continued creating power in moisture, rivers and oceans.
Make us attentive to the wounds of the earth and willing to work for the healing of the whole creation.

(2003 Lutheran World Federation Assembly in Winnipeg)

READING ONE: PSALM 104 (NRSV)

Leader: We are the people of God, the Almighty.

All: Created in the image of God.

Leader: We are the people of God, the Redeemer.

All: Loved by Jesus Christ, carriers of reconciliation.

Leader: We are the people of God, the Giver of Life.

All: Open to the inspiration of the Spirit in faith, hope and love.

Leader: Praise to you, Creator of heaven and earth.

All: You give us the food of the earth and the water of the well.

Leader: Praise to you Jesus Christ, who walked our ways.

All: You have revealed the will of God and the holiness of the earth.

Leader: Praise to you, Holy Spirit, Giver of Life.

All: You awaken our song of praise in faith and struggle.

Dramatised **READING TWO** based on the **Genesis** Ch. 1&2 Creation story (NRSV) [3 voices].

Voice 1: In the beginning God created

Voice 2: the heavens and the earth,

Voice 1: day and night,

Voice 2: and there was evening:

Voice 1: that was the first day.

Voice 3: By burning coal, oil and natural gas, we have released billions of tonnes of carbon into the atmosphere, locking in warmth in what is known as the greenhouse effect.

Voice 2: Then God separated the waters

Voice 1: under and above the dome,

Voice 2: God called the dome, sky

Voice 1: and there was evening and morning:

2.

A RIVER FLOWS – John F Deane

There was, merely, a void. And a void
is nothing. Breathless. Voiceless. Without form.

But love is a creative force, and love cares, and love
gives creation into the care of humankind.

There was a river that flowed out of Eden; but now the pond,
that was a lake in winter, has been scummed under the long

carelessness; cygnet and swan-feathers, ruby cedar leaves, such
miracles, float by; over the lazily lolling stream, a bridge,

painted and small-arched, is a path into, and out of, immortality;
there are mallard, flapping, there is the sudden squawk of a water-rail,

the weary-sounding flopping wings of a heron, labouring
towards the trees; rats infest, and poison has been laid. A buckled

supermarket trolley wallows in the scum, and in the small
waterfall, dinted coke-cans and ripped plastics curdle

in the backflow. Such lives and labours, of beast
and human, are both near and distant, like gaseous planets

passing through space with unheard raucousness. And yet,
be praised, O Lord, through all your creatures: through

Brother Sun and Sister Moon, through Mother Earth and Sister
Bodily Death, as there was once, merely, a void. And a void

is nothing. Breathless. Voiceless. Without form. Teach us
to care, to create, to love. To give voice to your Creation.

All: Blessed are we when we sing your praises and walk faithfully on your earth.

Blessed are we when we proclaim your justice and enjoy together the fruits of creation.

Blessed are we when we are guided by your wisdom and live in harmony with your world. AMEN

Let us pray

Leader: Most provident God, you graciously give us all good gifts, teach us to care for our earth: to till our soil responsibly, to keep our air pure, to free our waters from pollution, to harvest the warmth of our sun, and to respect the rights of all species. May we willingly share the gifts of your goodness with one another. We ask this of you, God of our universe.

CREDAL STATEMENT

**All: We believe in God
creator of heaven and earth,
who set the time of day and night
and the passing of the seasons,
who created the diversity of the planet
and enabled its abundance.
we believe in Jesus Christ
light of the world,
who taught us the meaning of good news
and demonstrated it in action,
who commanded us to share our bread
and to drink from the same cup.
we believe in the Holy Spirit
giver of life and renewal,
who opens up the possibility for change
and assures us of hope for the future,
who grants us time to amend our lives
and unites us in our quest for justice, peace and the integrity of creation.**

PLEDGE

**All: We pledge ourselves
to live responsibly
and use only our fair share of the earth's resources.
And we call upon those in positions of power and influence
in the Dail, in the Seanad, in the House of Commons, in the Assembly,
in city, town and county councils,
to bring honour to your creation,
and in the systems and structures of our nations
redress the injustice of climate change.**

Voice 2: that was the second day.

Voice 3: When sunlight strikes ice and snow, 80 percent is reflected back into space and 20 per cent is absorbed as heat. The opposite holds true for land and open water, further increasing the rise in temperature.

Voice 1: God summoned the waters under the dome.

Voice 2: to form the seas and let dry land appear.

Voice 1: and the earth put forth vegetation.

Voice 2: God saw that it was good.

Voice 1: That was the third day.

Voice 3: Melting glaciers will bring floods to some areas, while changing sea temperature will shut down ocean currents and change rainfall patterns, causing droughts.

Voice 2: God made the sun to rule over the day.

Voice 1: the moon to rule over night.

Voice 2: And God saw that it was good:

Voice 3: Prolonged periods of drought will wreck harvests and destroy lives, human and other species. Communities that depend on fragile agricultural cycles will be devastated.

Voice 1: God created every living thing

Voice 2: that moves and swims and flies.

Voice 1: God blessed them, saying,

Voice 2: 'Be fruitful and multiply':

Voice 1: that was the fifth day.

Voice 3: Everything will have to adapt to the effects of climate change, but while rich people and nations can more readily afford to counter rising sea levels, or repair the damage caused by hurricanes, poorer countries cannot.

Voice 2: And God said,

Voice 1: 'Let the earth bring forth living creatures of every kind'.

Voice 2: and it was so.

Voice 1: and God saw that it was good.

Voice 3: The pressure that increasing floods, famine and drought will put on vulnerable countries will be devastating – for some developing countries, the effects of climate change are already catastrophic.

Voice 2: Then God said,

Voice 1: ‘Let us make humankind in our image

Voice 2: and let them be carers of all the earth.’

Voice 1: God saw everything and indeed it was very good:

Voice 2: that was the sixth day.

Voice 1: On the seventh day God rested.

Voice 3: It is time to change the climate of apathy that prevails in our privileged communities, and take action to stop global warming devastating the world’s most vulnerable communities and other species.

READING: (*Laudato Si, paragraphs 25 & 26*)

[Gaelic lament sing or say a few times]



PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Leader: Creator God, you give light and life, and express delight in your creation. You gave the command to till and care for your garden, but have abused the beauty of creation.

We confess we have not taken care to understand the earth, and care for it.

We have taken the climate for granted and unthinkingly polluted the earth.

We confess the churches’ lack of concern for the well-being of creation.

We confess the excesses within our own daily lives, our pursuit of comfort and pleasure at the expense of the earth.

All: Creator God, we have desecrated your creation and darkened your light.

Leader: Blessed is the one who shows mercy.

Forgive our lack of compassion and respect for the world:

All: Creator God, forgive us and help us to change our ways.

Leader: Blessed is the one whose heart is pure.

Forgive us when we call for others to change yet fail to examine the lives we lead.

All: Creator God, forgive us and help us to change our ways.

Leader: Blessed is the one who strives for peace.

Forgive our squabbles over the earth’s bounty which sends God’s people to war.

All: Creator God, forgive us and help us to change our ways.

Leader: Blessed is the one who strives for peace.

Forgive our squabbles over the earth’s bounty which sends God’s people to war.

All: Creator God, forgive us and help us to change our ways.

Leader: Blessed are those who give their lives in the service of others and our planet earth. Forgive us when we forget we live in one world, as one people, neighbours to each other, and to the whole of Creation.

[A short silence is kept for consideration and reflection]

WORDS OF RENEWAL

**All Good of life and God of light,
As we seek a new relationship with your creation may we sense the grace and peace of a new relationship with you. AMEN**

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

[Use some of the Intercessory Prayers here]