



THE CHURCH
OF ENGLAND

Environment Programme

A service of the word for Creationtide

**For rural communities in times of environmental
crisis and climate change**

Gathering and Greeting

God in Christ has revealed his glory.

Come let us worship.

From the rising of the sun to its setting
the Lord's name is greatly to be praised.

Give him praise, you servants of the Lord.

O praise the name of the Lord!

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Hymn/ Worship song

On a table place:

- a) a bread roll/ ears of wheat*
- b) a Bible*
- c) a jug of water, pour this into a bowl*

3 people can bring these up.

Opening Prayer

Biblical references: Psalm 104, Matthew 13

We praise you, living God:

you give strength to the earth that sustains us,
you open your hand to feed all living things. (a)

We praise you, Lord Jesus Christ:

you teach us with stories of seeds and weeds and harvest time,
you call us to accept your word and bear much fruit. (b)

We praise you, Holy Spirit, fire of love:

you are the breath of life in every creature,
you refresh our thirsty souls with grace. (c)

Blessed be God, Source of Wisdom, living Word, abiding Spirit,

Blessed be God for ever.

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Climate Change Prayer (Collect)

Holy God, earth and air and water are your creation,
and every living thing belongs to you:

have mercy on us as climate change confronts us.

Give us the will and the courage to simplify the way we live,
to reduce the energy we use,
to share the resources you provide,
and to bear the cost of change.

Forgive our past mistakes
and send us your Spirit,
with wisdom in present controversies
and vision for the future to which you call us
in Jesus Christ our Lord.

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Penitence

[We confess our sin, and the sins of our society, in the misuse of God's creation.]

God our Father, we are sorry
for the times when we have used your gifts carelessly,
and acted ungratefully.

Hear our prayer, and in your mercy:

forgive us and help us.

We enjoy the fruits of the harvest,
but sometimes forget that you have given them to us.

Father, in your mercy:

forgive us and help us.

We belong to a people who are full and satisfied,

but ignore the cry of the hungry.

Father, in your mercy:

forgive us and help us.

We are thoughtless,

and do not care enough for the world you have made.

Father, in your mercy:

forgive us and help us.

We store up goods for ourselves alone,

as if there were no God and no heaven.

Father, in your mercy:

forgive us and help us.

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Absolution

The Lord enrich you with his grace,

and nourish you with his blessing;

the Lord defend you in trouble and keep you from all evil;

the Lord accept your prayers,

and absolve you from your offences,

for the sake of Jesus Christ, our Saviour.

Amen.

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Benedicite (Let us sing to the Lord)

Refrain

Let us sing to the Lord, let us sing to the Lord!

Let us sing to the Lord, let us sing to the Lord!

Cantor

All creation bless the Lord;
and you, angels of the Lord,
praise and glorify the Lord.

Sun and moon, bless the Lord;
and you, night and day, bless the Lord,
and you, light and darkness, bless the Lord.

Praise the Lord all the earth.
Birds of the air, bless the Lord,
all creatures of the sea, bless the Lord.

Fire and hail, bless the Lord.
Snow and frost, bless the Lord,
mountains and hills, bless the Lord.

Praised be Christ, he is our hope,
he is the joy of our hearts.
Compassionate and gracious is our God.

The Lord opens up a way,
and leads us on paths of life,
the earth is full of God's love.

The glory of the Lord fills the earth.
Let all peoples bless God's name,
Let everything that breathes bless the Lord.

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Hymn / Worship Song

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Liturgy of the Word

Bible readings

Address

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Affirmation of faith

Let us declare our faith in God.

**All We believe in God the Father,
from whom every family
in heaven and on earth is named.**

**We believe in God the Son,
who lives in our hearts through faith,
and fills us with his love.**

**We believe in God the Holy Spirit,
who strengthens us
with power from on high.**

**We believe in one God;
Father, Son and Holy Spirit.**

Amen.

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Prayers of the people

And / Or

God in creation

Let us pray for our own needs and for the needs of others,
following the pattern which Jesus gave
when he taught us to pray to God our Father.

Through our love of the countryside,
through our care for commuters and farmers,
through our care for animals and wildlife,
through our respect for property and tools:

Father, hallowed be your name.

On our farms and in our homes,
in our colleges and schools,
where machinery is made,
and where policy is planned:

Father, your kingdom come.

By our seeking your guidance,
by our keeping your commandments,
by our living true to our consciences:

Father, your will be done.

For the millions who live in poverty and hunger,
for our own needs, and the requirements of our neighbours,
by cooperation, sympathy and generosity:

give us today our daily bread.

Because we have broken your commandments,
doing what we ought not to do and failing as
good stewards of your creation;

forgive us our sins.

If any have injured us by injustice, double dealing or exploitation:
we forgive those who sin against us.

When prosperity lulls us to false security,

or hard times prompt us to despair,
When success makes us boastful,
or failure makes us bitter:
**lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.**

In the assurance of faith,
in the confidence of hope,
in the will to serve,
help us to love Christ as Lord,
and our neighbour as ourselves.

**for the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours,
now and for ever.**

Amen.

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Hymn / Worship song

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Conclusions and Endings

Creator God,
you give seed for us to sow,
and bread for us to eat;
make us thankful for what we have received
and generous in supplying the needs of others
so all the world may give you thanks and glory,
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

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Dismissal

Stewardship of Creation theme

Go in strong and growing faith.

Trust in the tenderness of Christ
to heal a bruised and broken world.

Thanks be to God.

Go in eager and refreshing hope.

Work with Christ risen from the dead,
to fulfil the promise of a new creation.

Thanks be to God.

Let us go in peace,

to treasure and to tend the world God made and loves.

In the name of Christ. Amen.

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Sources:

Patterns for Worship 1995, 1998, New Patterns for Worship 2002 : Church House Publishing

Climate Change prayer; Dismissal, stewardship of creation; Anglican Communion Environmental Network