

As It Was in the Beginning... Stations of Creation¹



¹ Adapted from Environment Network
Diocese of Nova Scotia & Prince Edward Island
2019

Opening Meditation

(Citizens for Public Justice 2013, *Living Ecological Justice*, p. 36)

Take off your shoes.

Like Moses, take off your shoes.

This is holy ground.

Walk gently through my woods.

Tread softly on my face.

Walk reverently through my garden.

This is holy ground.

This is God's sanctuary.

I invite you to worship with your feet this day.

I invite you to walk across my landscape and sense the life within, the glory that fills my body—God's presence below.

I invite you to reach down to the holy ground beneath you.

Walk in the water. Sink in the sand. Stand on a rock.

You are walking on fire, the fire of God's glory vibrant within.

Take off your shoes. This is holy ground.

This is the sanctuary of God.

Amen

Station 1: The beginning of light

Genesis 1: ¹ In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth.

² Now the earth was formless and empty, darkness was over the surface of the deep, and the Spirit of God was hovering over the waters.

³ And God said, "Let there be light," and there was light.

⁴ God saw that the light was good, and God separated the light from the darkness.

⁵ God called the light "day," and the darkness God called "night." And there was evening, and there was morning—the first day.

Meditation

(Mash 2017, "First Eucharistic Prayer for the Season of Creation," p. iv;

<https://acen.anglicancommunion.org/media/309609/Season-of-Creation-Five.pdf>)

God of all of Creation ...

You spoke the Word and all that is in heaven and on the earth, all things, came to be. Your Spirit hovered over the primal elements, and you brought forth life in forms innumerable, including this our fragile earth, and we amongst its inhabitants.

As our past is in you, so our hope for the future rests with you. As we have turned from your way, so we turn again to the warmth of your love. Through you all things are brought to new life.

And now we give you thanks for the glories of your creation given into our care, and for the opportunities we have to share that richness with all your people.

Station 2: Sky and Waters

Genesis 1: ⁶And God said, "Let there be a vault between the waters to separate water from water." ⁷So God made the vault and separated the water under the vault from the water above it. And it was so. ⁸God called the vault "sky." And there was evening, and there was morning—the second day.

Meditation

(Green Anglicans, Trinity Wall Street - Lenten reflections;
<http://www.greenanglicans.org/recycling>)

Spirit of Living Water,

You hold all of creation in your womb

And spring us forward onto the earth at birth.

Spirit of Tides,

Remind us of the rise and fall of your rhythms

So that we may discover them deep within our

being. Spirit of Greenness,

Bring moistness and vigour to our lives

So that we might savour the experience of your energy

Moving through us out into the world.

Blessings of water be upon us.

May we be carried by the flow of the great river of life.

May we discover a hidden spring within, gushing forth.

May we be carried to the shores of the sacred and renewed.

Station 3: Oceans and Vegetation

Genesis 1: ⁹ And God said, “Let the water under the sky be gathered to one place, and let dry ground appear.” And it was so. ¹⁰ God called the dry ground “land,” and the gathered waters God called “seas.” And God saw that it was good. ¹¹ Then God said, “Let the land produce vegetation: seed-bearing plants and trees on the land that bear fruit with seed in it, according to their various kinds.” And it was so. ¹² The land produced vegetation: plants bearing seed according to their kinds and trees bearing fruit with seed in it according to their kinds. And God saw that it was good. ¹³ And there was evening, and there was morning—the third day.

Meditation

(Hindu prayer; https://www.huffingtonpost.ca/entry/nature-prayers-earth-day_n_7112274)

May the waters flow peacefully;
may the herbs and plants grow peacefully;
may all the divine powers bring unto us peace.
May the rain come down in the proper time,
may the earth yield plenty of corn,
may the country be free from war.
The supreme Lord is peace.

Creating God,

As you created the world, your Spirit moved over the water, and by your Word, you brought forth life in which you take delight. Your Word called forth vegetation: plants yielding seed, and fruit trees of every kind on the earth with seeds in it. And it was so and it was good. This became the basis from which you called forth and created living creatures of every kind, including us.

Ever since then the plants of your creating have nourished all the living creatures of the land, giving us air to breath, homes to live in and food to eat. Help us to remember this gift of life that you have so freely given.

Send your Spirit so that we may be a people who again care for creation and nurture life. Bless our acts of stewardship, may they be a sign of your love, and may they be a blessing that reminds us of the joy found if we follow your life-giving ways.

In Jesus' name, we pray

Amen

Station 4: Moon and Stars

Genesis 1: ¹⁴ And God said, "Let there be lights in the vault of the sky to separate the day from the night, and let them serve as signs to mark sacred times, and days and years, ¹⁵ and let them be lights in the vault of the sky to give light on the earth." And it was so. ¹⁶ God made two great lights—the greater light to govern the day and the lesser light to govern the night. He also made the stars. ¹⁷ God set them in the vault of the sky to give light on the earth, ¹⁸ to govern the day and the night, and to separate light from darkness. And God saw that it was good. ¹⁹ And there was evening, and there was morning—the fourth day.

Meditation

(Catholic Online 2019. Canticle of Brother Sun and Sister Moon of St. Francis of Assisi; <https://www.catholic.org/prayers/prayer.php?p=183>)

Most High, all-powerful, all-good Lord, All praise is Yours, all glory, all honour and all blessings.

To you alone, Most High, do they belong, and no mortal lips are worthy to pronounce Your Name.

Praised be You my Lord with all Your creatures,
especially Sir Brother Sun,
Who is the day through whom You give us light.
And he is beautiful and radiant with great splendour,
Of You Most High, he bears the likeness.
Praised be You, my Lord, through Sister Moon and the stars,

In the heavens you have made them bright, precious and fair.

Praised be You, my Lord, through Brothers Wind and Air,
And fair and stormy, all weather's moods,
by which You cherish all that You have made.

Praised be You my Lord through Sister Water,
So useful, humble, precious and pure.

Praised be You my Lord through Brother Fire,
through whom You light the night and he is beautiful and playful
and robust and strong.

Praised be You my Lord through our Sister,
Mother Earth
who sustains and governs us,
producing varied fruits with coloured flowers and herbs.
Praise be You my Lord through those who grant pardon for love
of You and bear sickness and trial.

Blessed are those who endure in peace, By You Most High, they
will be crowned.

Praised be You, my Lord through Sister Death,
from whom no-one living can escape. Woe to those who die in
mortal sin! Blessed are they She finds doing Your Will.

No second death can do them harm. Praise and bless my Lord and
give Him thanks,
And serve Him with great humility.

Station 5: Sea Creatures and birds

Genesis 1: ²⁰ And God said, "Let the water teem with living creatures,
and let birds fly above the earth across the vault of the sky." ²¹ So God
created the great creatures of the sea and every living thing with

which the water teems and that moves about in it, according to their kinds, and every winged bird according to its kind. And God saw that it was good. ²² God blessed them and said, “Be fruitful and increase in number and fill the water in the seas, and let the birds increase on the earth.” ²³ And there was evening, and there was morning—the fifth day.

Meditation

(The Rt. Rev. Steven Charleston via Facebook)

“Last night they came again, the spirits of earth and sky, of wind and rain, of deep seas and tall mountains, in all shapes and sizes they came, from every tribe and nation, the deer and the elk, the bear and the wolf, broad winged eagles and crows as black as night, they all came and stood in a solemn circle, beneath the one-eyed moon, and spoke with a single voice, this message from the sacred: do not doubt what you see, the world is warming, the waters rising, the winds come stronger than before, do not turn away, do not pretend not to see, but speak the truth, and set the spirits free to heal the world, before the ice has gone, before the last tiger falls to final sleep, before only the desert remembers the ones who once walked this land.”

Station 6: Animals and human beings

Genesis 1: ²⁴ And God said, “Let the land produce living creatures according to their kinds: the livestock, the creatures that move along the ground, and the wild animals, each according to its kind.” And it was so ... Then God said, “Let us make humankind in our image, in our likeness, so that they may rule over the fish in the sea and the birds in the sky, over the livestock and all the wild animals, and over all the creatures that move along the ground.” ²⁷ So God created humankind in God’s own image, in the image of God they were created; male and female God created them. God blessed them and said to them, “Be fruitful and increase in number; fill the earth and subdue it. ³¹ God saw all that he had made, and it was very good. And there was evening, and there was morning—the sixth day.

Meditation

(Citizens for Public Justice 2013, *Living Ecological Justice*, pp. 44, 62)

Loving God, let our care for creation be our act of worship and obedience to you. Your kingdom come and your will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Creator God, we commit ourselves to honour all of your creatures and to protect them from abuse and extinction for our world belongs to you.

(St. Alban's Church, The Anglican Church in Copenhagen, "Environmental Prayer.":
<http://www.st-albans.dk/green-church/environmental-prayer/>)

Lord God,

We thank you for the gift of life.

We thank and praise you for the mystery of creation.

We know that you are in us,

And we in you.

Guide us, therefore,

In our efforts

To hand on the earth to future generations,

So that others can seek to understand

Your will and purpose in the world,

Bring your love to perfection

And magnify your holy name.

Help us overcome godlessness with love.

Help us support and protect

the victims of climate change everywhere;

Those who've lost

their homes or livelihoods

to the ravages of famine, fire and flood.

Teach us to live in peace

And harmony with all creation.

Lord, in your name,

Amen.

Station 7: Sabbath Rest

Genesis 2: 1-3 Thus the heavens and the earth were finished, and all their multitude. 2 And on the seventh day God finished the work that he had done, and he rested on the seventh day from all the work that he had done. 3 So God blessed the seventh day and hallowed it, because on it God rested from all the work that he had done in creation.

Meditation

(Citizens for Public Justice 2013, *Living Ecological Justice*, p. 68)

Every part of the earth is sacred
every shining pine needle, every sandy shore.
every mist in the dark woods
every clearing and 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 the earth.
The water'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 all share the same breath.
The wind that gave our grandparents breath also received their
last sigh.
The wind that gave 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.
Our God is the same God, whose compassion is equal for all.
For we did not weave the web of life;
we are merely a strand in it.

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

Let us give thanks for the web and the circle that connects us all.
Thanks be to God, the God of all.

Amen

Station 8 – The New Creation

Revelation 21:1-5 Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth; for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more. And I saw the holy city, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, “See, the home of God is among mortals. He will dwell with them as their God; they will be his peoples, and God himself will be with them; he will wipe every tear from their eyes. Death will be no more; mourning and crying and pain will be no more, for the first things have passed away.” And the one who was seated on the throne said, “See, I am making all things new.” Also he said, “Write this, for these words are trustworthy and true.”

Meditation

Our Mother (The Lord’s Prayer)

(Liturgies from Below: Praying With People at the Ends of the World, pg 300)

Our Mother

That inhabits the earth and waters the floors

And colours the skies

Blessed are the names with which we call you

And blessed are the fruits you provide us.

May justice come to your sons and daughters

And may there be fullness together with a dignified and good life

May your riches be shared with equity

So that there is no lack of bread, vegetables, fruits, milk or wine

On any table or on any street.

Forgive us the abuse
And the agrochemicals and the immoral failing
The waters that we poison
The contaminated air.

Lead us not into the perverse temptation
Of greed and lust
Of the pride of power
And the arrogance of wealth.

Because yours is the memory of the loving creator
And the present of the struggle for abundance
And the future of all hope
Amen.

Closing Benediction

(Adapted from the Iona Community, Wee Worship Book, pg. 101)

Creating God,
You have poured yourself into the cosmos,
In light, in love, in Jesus, in us.

Lord Jesus Christ,
You have put your life into our hands;
Now we put our lives into yours.

Sustaining Spirit,
Take us,
Renew and remake us and all of creation,
Our institutions, our economies, our religion.
What we have been is past;
What we shall be, through you,
Still awaits.

Lead us on.
Take us with you.
Amen.

