

Season of Creation (Sept. 1 – Oct. 4) – At home worship resources prepared for use by those unable to attend in person worship by the Rev'd Chris Brouillard-Coyle, rector, St. Paul's and Trinity Anglican Churches, Essex/Cottam, Ontario.

God rules over all the earth: O come, let us worship. (BAS p. 47)

A Song of Creation 2 (see BAS p. 83-84)

Glorify the Lord, all you works of the Lord, praise God and highly exalt God for ever. In the firmament of God's power, glorify the Lord, praise God and highly exalt God for ever.

Let the earth glorify the Lord. Glorify the Lord, O mountains and hills, and all that grows upon the earth, praise God and highly exalt God for ever.

Glorify the Lord, O springs of water, seas, and streams, O whales and all that move in the waters. All birds of the air, glorify the Lord, praise God and highly exalt God for ever.

Glorify the Lord, O beasts of the wild, and all you flocks and herds. O people everywhere, glorify the Lord, praise God and highly exalt God for ever.

Let us glorify the Lord: Creator, Redeemer and Life-Giving Spirit; praise God and highly exalt God for ever. In the firmament of God's power, glorify the Lord, praise God and highly exalt God for ever.

Proclamation of the Word (see readings and reflection suggestions)

Proclamation of Faith (Here, O Israel, BAS p.53)

Hear, O Israel, the Lord our God, the Lord is one. Love the Lord your God with all your hearts, with all your soul, with all your mind, and with all your strength. This is the first and the great commandment. The second is like it: Love your neighbour as yourself. There is no commandment greater than these.

Prayers (Written by Karen Turner for the Diocese of Toronto, Earth Sunday 2018)

Creator God, teach us to see you in the beauty of the universe, for all things speak of you. Awaken our praise and thankfulness for everything that you have made. Give us the grace to perceive that we are connected to everything that is. Thank you God.

God whom we love, we stand before you with open and humble hearts. In our imagination, allow us to see and hear and feel the beautiful expressions of the earth, that speak to each of us - Mountains, rivers, prairie, oceans, Forest, meadows, trees, flowers. Thank you God.

God of love, show us our place in this world, as kin to all the non-human creatures with whom we share the earth. They came forth from your hand; they are yours, filled with your presence and your tender love and not one of them is forgotten in your sight. Thank you God.

Saving God, we give thanks for all human beings on the earth, Created from dust, yet crowned with glory, Those we know and those who are strangers; Those near to us and those far away; All of us beautiful, all of us flawed. Thank you God.

God of abundance, we give thanks for the sun, for water, for soil, for air, on which our lives depend moment by moment. In silence we are aware of our frailty, our complete dependence on our beloved Mother Earth who nurtures us and sustains our every breath. Thank you God.

Creator God, we enjoy the abundant fruits of the earth. Yet, we acknowledge that we in the developed world, have often wasted the gifts of the earth, taking more than our share, leaving our sisters and brothers in other places in poverty and need. Renew our minds and transform us into servants of the earth, so that her richness and bounty will sustain, not only us, but generations to come after us. Thank you God. 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 forever. Amen.

Collect (see BAS p. 396)

Creator of the fruitful earth, you made us stewards of all things. Give us grateful hearts for all your goodness, and steadfast wills to use your bounty well, that the whole human family, today and in generations to come, may with us give thanks for the riches of your creation. We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ the Lord. Amen.

Final prayer: May the God of peace enable us to do God's will in every kind of goodness, working in us what pleases God, through Jesus Christ, to whom be the glory for every and ever. Amen. (BAS p. 55)

Readings and Reflection suggestions

Season of Creation 1 – Sept. 6

Readings: Exodus 12:1-14; Psalm 149; Romans 13:8-14; Matthew 18:15-20

Invitation to Reflection: In 2016, some 190 countries adopted a plan to offset air travel emissions based on 2020 levels. At the time, the officials could not have predicted the significant reduction in air travel this year as a result of a global pandemic. This year's theme for the Season of Creation is "Jubilee for the Earth". The pandemic has resulted in significant behaviour changes that have implications for our carbon footprints. As the letter to the Romans invites us to "wake from sleep", "put aside the works of darkness" and "put on the armor of light": How might we make choices about our relationship to the earth and to each other based on what we have learned about these throughout the challenges and changes of this time?

Season of Creation 2 – Sept. 13

Readings: Exodus 14:19-31; Ps 114; Romans 14:1-12; Matthew 18:21-35

Invitation to Reflection: The letter to the Romans tells us: “Some believe in eating anything, while the weak only eat vegetables.” The text sound like an echo of a contemporary debate with vegans, vegetarians, omnivores and carnivores. There is a lot information currently available about the impact of food production and waste on our health and the health of the planet. It is up to each person to make choices that best reflect their ideals and knowledge. How willing are we to be fully informed consumers if that information challenges us to reconsider our practices? To what extent are we prepared to be accountable to God for the choices we make around food?

Season of Creation 3 – Sept. 20

Readings: Exodus 16:2-15; Psalm 105:1-6, 37-45; Philippians 1:21-30; Matthew 20:1-16

Invitation to Reflection: Migrant workers, the textile industry in South East Asia, families who live in the dumps looking for recycling materials. There are a plethora of individuals who work through the heat of the day and yet, human structures do not allow them a basic standard of living. Despite their best efforts, despite their hard work, despite their willingness to do what is necessary, they may not be able to afford food and shelter. Some even bear the brunt of the environmental implications of these industries as they are exposed to chemicals and pollutants at work which bleed into the soil and waterways of their homes. In what ways does the parable of the labourers in the vineyard remind us that God’s ways are not human ways? To what extent does this story challenge our complicity in these human structures as those called to live the love Jesus showed the world?

Season of Creation 4 – Sept. 27

Readings: Exodus 17:1-7; Psalm 78:1-4, 12-16; Philippians 2:1-13; Matthew 21:23-32

Invitation to Reflection: While in Kamloops years ago, we watched a train go by filled with coal cars. As of 2017, only 9% of electricity in Canada was generated through coal. The expectation is that Canada will eliminate coal-fired electricity production by 2030. Still, the Port of Vancouver has exported more than 36 million tonnes of coal in a year. The country continues to benefit from other countries’ dependence upon an electricity source which is known to significantly contribute to carbon pollution.

One son said no to his dad and then did what was right. The other son said he would go but then didn’t. To what extent does our complicity in contributing to pollution through the choices we make offer a parallel to this parable? In what ways can and do we do better?

Season of Creation 5 – Oct. 4

Readings: Exodus 20:1-4, 7-9, 12-20; Psalm 19; Philippians 3:4b-14; Matthew 21:33-46

Invitation to Reflection: There is a saying often suggested to have its roots in Native American traditions: we do not inherit the earth from our ancestors we are borrowing from our children. This implies that we are tenants on this earth. Are we good tenants? Are we making good use of the resources we have? Are we caring for the earth and sky and water in ways that will ensure it remains sustaining for future generations? Are we prepared to give the Owner of the vineyard the bounty of the harvest as promised?