



SEASON OF CREATION

October 3, 2021

Climate and Ecological Emergency - The Desolation of Creation

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF FIRST PEOPLES

For thousands of years the indigenous people have walked in this land, have harvested from its rivers, tress, plants, lakes, seas and land and have never defiled it.

We acknowledge the (.....) People of this place, who have dwelt here and who have cared for the land and its waters.

***We are attentive to their wisdom in managing the waters without destruction,
in harvesting from their bounty of life without exploitation,
and we live in commitment to the ongoing journey of reconciliation
between indigenous and non-indigenous Australians.***

CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: O God, make speed to save us.

All: O Lord, make haste to help us.

Leader: Send forth your Spirit, O Lord

All: And renew all the earth

SONG

God the Maker of the heavens


<https://vimeo.com/worshipwell/download/609654935/32ef97f43d>

PRAYER OF ADORATION AND THANKSGIVING

We praise you God, for the Earth that sustains life.

Through the planetary cycles of days and seasons, renewal and growth, you open your hand to give all creatures our food in the proper time.

In your Wisdom you gave a Sabbath for the land to rest.



But these days our living pushes the planet beyond its limits.
Our demand for growth, and an endless cycle of production and consumption
are exhausting our world.
The forests are leached, the topsoil erodes, the fields fail, the deserts advance,
the seas acidify, and the storms intensify.
Humans and animals are forced to flee in search of security.
We have not allowed the land to observe a Sabbath,
and the Earth is struggling to renew.
And so we confess. God of mercy and justice,

One: You tell us the land must rest, free from the burden of production.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION


Creator God, Maker of heaven and earth,
we acknowledge our failure to live as responsibly as we ought as part of your
creation.
We have often taken what we want, without considering the consequences.
We have wasted and discarded, without thought for the future.

Open our hearts and minds to the signs of our times, to the groaning of creation,
so that we may turn from our greed and lack of vision
and see a world being made new in Jesus Christ our Lord.

We confess our demand that the Earth produce beyond its limits, and our
bondage to desire more.
You call us to pause from sowing, pruning, and reaping in ways that destroy the
soil.
We confess our vicious consumption of food and energy.
You assure us that we can be filled from the yield of the land.
We confess our lack of trust that we can thrive within the Earth's limits.
You affirm that our security is found in enough.
We confess our lack of courage to resist the myth of endless growth.
You tell us that the land must not be sold permanently, because the land is
yours, and everything in it.
We confess to thinking of creation as given, instead of a gift. You call us to leave
enough fruit on the vine and in the fields to feed our neighbours, animals, and
replenish the Earth.
We confess our failure to share what we receive from the Earth.
You call us to fairness and justice.
We confess our lack of faith, not loving you with our whole heart and strength
and mind, or our human and non-human neighbours as ourselves.
Turn us from fear and mistrust.

ASSURANCE

Hear the good news...
If we confess our sins, God is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and
purify us from all unrighteousness. (1 John 1:9)



And... the Spirit helps us in our weakness; for we do not know how to pray as we ought, but that very Spirit intercedes with sighs too deep for words. And God, who searches the heart, knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God (Romans 8:26–27).

All: Thanks be to God.
Amen.

SONG

Creation Sings – Stuart Townsend

<https://vimeo.com/worshipwell/download/596315459/4ffa7cc1ae>

PRAYERS FOR OTHERS

READINGS

Exodus 17: 1 – 7

Isaiah 58:3-11

Philippians 2:8-16

Matthew 21:23–32

REFLECTION

This is an Emergency

<https://vimeo.com/worshipwell/download/614137214/3b4a0e6c85>

SONG

All Things Bright and Beautiful

<https://vimeo.com/worshipwell/download/596329953/71d4c307de>

BLESSING

May God who established the abundance of creation,
Who marvelled at the lilies of the field,
Who transforms chaos to order,
Lead us to transform our lives, the Church and Creation,
To reflect God's glory.

BLESSING SONG

Deep Stillness – Robin Mann

<https://vimeo.com/worshipwell/download/558964781/18a1e37f99>

Prayers adapted from Uniting World: PCC's Ecological Stewardship and Climate Justice team
<https://unitingworld.org.au/a-home-for-all-season-of-creation->