

  Further Resources

**Videos:**

The Great Big Green Week is 8th to 16th June and is focused on ‘swaps’. See the further actions file for more details. This is a great little video introducing it and showing what other folk are doing.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mz0_ZWni7eM>

Zero Hour are promoting their cross-party Climate and Nature Bill (again, more details in the suggested actions). There is also a video you can share to promote this – based on Monty Python’s ‘Romans’ sketch called ‘Toadwatch: What has nature ever done for us?’

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PhlMWK7GysA>

The BBC short video Wood Wide Web showing how interconnected nature is:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yWOqeyPIVRo&t=2s>

This video is showing how wolves change the course of rivers! Again, showing the interconnectivity of all life.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=W88Sact1kws>

Something a bit different. From CS Lewis The magician’s nephew. Aslan sings creation into being. Rather beautiful.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8UPy4kAHJD4

**Songs/Hymns (and singing the faith numbers)**

Indescribable (48)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dLMVqNwypjA>

Creator God Nick and Becky Drake

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lLr_HlJpYSk>

Great Big God

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0K3TUFFpmhA

All over the earth (63)

Oh Lord my God (82)

Teach me to dance (477)

We are marching (483)

You shall go out with Joy (487)

God in my living (497)

Let love be real (615)

Think of a world (92) (this has many verses – think about splitting it up and having prayers or questions after sections)

**PRAYERS: (**taken from Church of England Environment Programme or from St Bedes, York)

**OPENING PRAYER (Can have people joining in or just have it said by one person.)**

Blessed are you, Lord God, King of the universe.

Your word brings on the dusk of evening.

Your wisdom creates both night and day.

You determine the cycles of time.

You arrange the succession of seasons and establish the stars in their heavenly courses.

The Lord of hosts is your name.

Living and eternal God, rule over us always.

Blessed be the Lord, whose word makes evening fall.

Creator of the cosmos, of eternity and time: **Be with us in this time**

Saviour of the world, healer of the nations: **Be with us in this place**

Breath of all that lives, of people near and far **Stir within our lives**

Maker-Spirit-Son God of here and now: **Be present in our worship, that we may find new ways to be present in your world.**

Amen

Iona Abbey Worship Book ISBN 1-901557-50-2

**Rainbow Prayer for Operation Noah**

Creator God, how deep are your designs! You made a living earth, cloud, rain and wind, and charged us with their care. We confess that the way we live today is changing the climate, the seas and the balance of life, dispossessing the poor and future generations. Build our lives into an ark for all creation, and, as you promised Noah never to repeat the Flood, so make us heralds of a rainbow covenant: choosing life for all that is at risk – for creation, for neighbours near and far, our children and ourselves. Amen.

From Operation Noah launch, Coventry Cathedral, 2004

**A prayer for Earth Day from St Bedes. A beautiful prayer that reminds us of the connectivity of all the earth.**

A Prayer for World Earth Day

A collaborative prayer written by the ‘Uniting Heaven and Earth’ Workshop Group St Bede’s Pastoral Centre, York, April 2024

Love is the name of The Great Mystery.

Mother Earth, your unconditional love flows and fills us, as the endless flow of the mountain stream.

God is in the patterns and connections that bind all things to make the world, your love extends everywhere at all times, Lord.

I hold gratitude in my heart for never feeling a separation from you; I continue my path in tune with Nature and the gifts of your creation.

I praise God for wild tree roots breaking through urban tarmac.

A daisy chain of birdsong sparkles in the clear air; my soul lifts like silken banners to the sky.

There is something about this blackbird that has life in himself … the same as me… I cannot converse with it or comprehend its thought, really; yet … I am of the created order, it is of me … and I am of it.

Show me how to live in your love, Lord.

Thank you Bethoc, for being the first Iona Prioress.

Gaia, we call you Mother … you are flesh of my flesh, bone of my bone, I skip over moss-soaked stones, I lie with the primroses… All is alive!

We are all journeying together, Blessing our Earth, Coming Home ….

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**Canticle of the Creatures St. Francis of Assisi**

All praise be yours, My Lord, through all that you have made.

And first my lord Brother Sun, who brings the day....

How beautiful is he, how radiant in all his splendour!

Of you, Most High, he bears the likeness.

All praise be yours, my Lord, through Sister Moon and Stars;

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

All praise be yours, my Lord, through Brothers Wind and Air....

All praise be yours, my Lord, through Sister Water, so useful, lowly, precious and pure.

All praise be yours, my Lord, through Brother Fire, through whom you brighten up the night....

 All praise be yours, my Lord, through Sister Earth, our mother, Who feeds us...and produces various fruits with coloured flowers and herbs....

Praise and bless my Lord, and give him thanks, And serve him with great humility.

Amen

**Tearfund “Hope for Creation” prayer**

Lord, make us people who recognise, nurture and act towards a more sustainable world for the benefit of all who draw life from this planet. Raise up campaigners who will speak out for wisdom, restraint and compassion. And teach us to partner you in protecting this precious world and the lives of our most vulnerable global neighbours. Amen

**Prayers of Intercession**

Spirit of God, You established the dance of Creation; bring life out of death bring order out of chaos. Call us to radical action: to care for the web of Creation to share our resources justly and to work for the renewal of our Mother, Earth. We light this candle as we commit ourselves to fast and pray for climate justice.

Most Revd Dr Thabo Makgoba, Archbishop of Cape Town

**A prayer for leaders and politicians**

God, we pray for you to raise up a generation of leaders with the courage to take responsibility for our changing climate, and the part we have played in it. We intercede for our politicians and leaders – cause them to act in the best interests of all nations today, and all peoples’ in the future, in order to avoid catastrophic changes. We ask for a generation of leaders who will be willing to act justly so that those who have contributed so little to the problems we are facing, and have fewer resources with which to face it, are not left to shoulder our burden. We ask for you to fill the hearts of all who lead rich nations – give them your mercy and compassion on poor countries already suffering the effects of a changing climate. Just as they have been moved to cancel debt in the past, encourage them also to release funds so that poor communities can adapt to the effects of climate change, and develop cleanly. Creator God,

The Sanctuary Centre

**A bidding and response for use in intercessions:**

We can make a difference.

**Let us change the direction of the wind.**

Gracious God share with us your heart for creation.

That we may cherish all life, working together to heal the damage we have done.

Knowing that in all our struggles you are beside us, to inspire, strengthen and transform us. Chris Polhill (From “A Heart for Creation”)

Show us how to change Lord, show us how to do things well today,

So that others may not suffer,

Here and there,

Now and in the future.

Show us how to make our contribution

As we change the way we live,

Travel, make and consume,

Distribute and sell,

Use and reuse Energy and products.

Show us how to do simple things well in our home, Places of work and daily lives.

Show us how to protect the world you made,

In all it’s diversity and goodness,

From our carbon emissions – Global warming and climate change,

Rising temperatures and sea levels,

The displacement of peoples, environmental poverty,

Harm and destruction.

Show us how and show us why,

So that alone and with others Our contribution will make a difference.

Amen

Robin Morrison (From “A Heart for Creation” Chris Polhill)

**Intergenerational Activities:**

**Paper Chain.**

Have as many different colour strips as possible. If you are worshipping as a café style, join them as tables first then join the tables together. Glue dots are simple to use, or tape or staples.

Each person reflects on what they have heard. Encourage them to draw or write something on the strip of paper that they are thankful for, or will act on, or has made them think.

Prayer to bring the reflection together:

Loving God, thank you for putting the care of your creation on our hearts. Thank you for the opportunity to learn together and to think and to be challenged. Help us be encouraged by the knowledge that we do not act alone. We are interconnected, we are one whole living system in you.

Amen.

**Sharing prayers**

In small groups or with those around you in the seats, have a small box of coloured buttons, beads, pebbles, a collection of different objects. Talk together to think about what each item might represent. For example, a shell or a blue button might represent the sea. You might agree that you want to pray for the protection of the oceans and sustainable fishing, or for those people living on low lying islands who will be hit by climate change first. What might the other items represent?

After giving people a few minutes, simply remind everyone that God has been at the heart of their discussions and that we simply say ‘Amen’ at the end.

**Hidden things**

Hide around 6-10 items under people’s chairs or in areas that can be accessed (such as near the lectern). Make them interesting and curious items. Here’s a selection:

A picture or physical replica of a bee, a tree, an umbrella, a jar of coffee, a pair of swimming goggles, an item from your plastic recycling, a plastic animal etc.

Encourage people to spot them. Ask people to bring them up – or to pass them onto someone who is happy to bring them up. Young people are often keen to do this (but don’t force them if they would rather not).

Ask the congregation what these items might have to do with climate change. They will often come up with answers that you might not have even thought of. If they are stuck, perhaps they might think of what the item is made of, where it is from, how would it be affected if climate change gets worse.

The point to make is that the effects of climate change are not always immediately obvious. There may be some big changes and there may be some smaller knock on effects, because our earth is one interconnected ecosystem.

**Stand Up, Sit Down (Or hands up, hands down)**

A bit of fun to get the congregation thinking about taking action to solve the climate crisis. If some of your congregation are not able to stand up, encourage them to put their hand up instead (always give it as an option anyway). For young people – it still counts of their parents have done it, so they can stand up! (‘You’ can be thought of as ‘your household’).

1. Stand up if you regularly recycle.
2. Stand up if you try to use public transport or walk or cycle as often as you can.
3. Stand up if you have taken steps to reduce your plastic waste this year.
4. Stand up if you have had second thoughts about buying something because of environmental concerns.
5. Stand up if you have bought something second hand this year.
6. Stand up if you have signed a petition or contacted your MP this last year.
7. Stand up if you have been more careful using energy this year.
8. Stand up if you have been trying hard not to waste food this year.

The idea is to encourage people to realise that they might do quite a lot already.

