

Quiet Prayer

According to the rites of the Anglican Church of Canada (and from other places)

In the beginning, God said ... These words usher in the most extraordinary account of creation: an account of abundance, of multiplicity, of creativity. Creation is God's intricate work of art, and human beings are privileged to be placed within it. In this Season of Creation, we celebrate God the Creator, we thank God for the extraordinary riches of his grace. But we also come in sorrow for the way we have defaced creation and misused it for our own ends. In this Season, let's find again a true vision of what being made in the image of God, caring for creation can mean, and commit ourselves to action.

The Most Rev. Justin Welby, Archbishop of Canterbury

Officiant Lord, open our lips,
People **And our mouth shall proclaim your praise.**
Officiant O God, make speed to save us.
People **O Lord, make haste to help us.**
All **Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit:
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever.
Amen. Alleluia**

Officiant God rules over all the earth: O come, let us worship.

1) Psalm 100

Be joyful in the Lord, all you lands; *
serve the Lord with gladness
and come before his presence with a song.
**Know this: The Lord himself is God; *
he himself has made us, and we are his;
we are his people and the sheep of his pasture.**
Enter his gates with thanksgiving;
go into his courts with praise; *
give thanks to him and call upon his name.
**For the Lord is good;
his mercy is everlasting; *
and his faithfulness endures from age to age.**

2) Psalm 148

Hallelujah! Praise the Lord from the heavens; *
praise him in the heights.

**Praise him, all you angels of his; *
praise him, all his host.**

Praise him, sun and moon; *
praise him, all you shining stars.

**Praise him, heaven of heavens, *
and you waters above the heavens.**

Let them praise the name of the Lord; *
for he commanded, and they were created.

**He made them stand fast for ever and ever; *
he gave them a law which shall not pass away.**

Praise the Lord from the earth, *
you sea-monsters and all deeps;
**Fire and hail, snow and fog, *
tempestuous wind, doing his will;**

Mountains and all hills, *
fruit trees and all cedars;
**Wild beasts and all cattle, *
creeping things and wingèd birds;**

Kings of the earth and all peoples, *
princes and all rulers of the world;
**Young men and maidens, *
old and young together.**

Let them praise the name of the Lord, *
for his name only is exalted,
his splendour is over earth and heaven.

**He has raised up strength for his people
and praise for all his loyal servants, *
the children of Israel, a people who are near him.
Hallelujah! Blessed are you, Lord**

3) Psalm 33:1-9

Rejoice in the Lord, you righteous; *
it is good for the just to sing praises.

**Praise the Lord with the harp; *
play to him upon the psaltery and lyre.**

Sing for him a new song; *
sound a fanfare with all your skill upon the trumpet.
For the word of the Lord is right, *
and all his works are sure.
He loves righteousness and justice; *
the loving-kindness of the Lord fills the whole earth.
By the word of the Lord were the heavens made, *
by the breath of his mouth all the heavenly hosts.
He gathers up the waters of the ocean as in a water-skin *
and stores up the depths of the sea.
Let all the earth fear the Lord; *
let all who dwell in the world stand in awe of him.

4) Psalm 8

Lord our governor, *
how exalted is your name in all the world!
Out of the mouths of infants and children *
your majesty is praised above the heavens.
You have set up a stronghold against your adversaries, *
to quell the enemy and the avenger.
When I consider your heavens, the work of your fingers, *
the moon and the stars you have set in their courses,
What is man that you should be mindful of him? *
the son of man that you should seek him out?
You have made him but little lower than the angels; *
you adorn him with glory and honour;
You give him mastery over the works of your hands; *
you put all things under his feet;
All sheep and oxen, *
even the wild beasts of the field,
The birds of the air, the fish of the sea, *
and whatsoever walks in the paths of the sea.
O Lord our governor, *
how exalted is your name in all the world!

5) Psalm 19:1-6

The heavens declare the glory of God, *
and the firmament shows his handiwork.

One day tells its tale to another, *
and one night imparts knowledge to another.

Although they have no words or language, *
and their voices are not heard,

Their sound has gone out into all lands, *
and their message to the ends of the world.

In the deep has he set a pavilion for the sun; *
it comes forth like a bridegroom out of his chamber;
it rejoices like a champion to run its course.

It goes forth from the uttermost edge of the heavens
and runs about to the end of it again; *
nothing is hidden from its burning heat.

6) Psalm 89:5-11

The heavens bear witness to your wonders, O Lord, *
and to your faithfulness in the assembly of the holy ones;

For who in the skies can be compared to the Lord? *
who is like the Lord among the gods?

God is much to be feared in the council of the holy ones, *
great and terrible to all those round about him.

Who is like you, Lord God of hosts? *

O mighty Lord, your faithfulness is all around you.

You rule the raging of the sea *
and still the surging of its waves.

You have crushed Rahab of the deep with a deadly wound; *
you have scattered your enemies with your mighty arm.

Yours are the heavens; the earth also is yours; *
you laid the foundations of the world and all that is in it.

A Reading from scripture . . .

As announced. After each reading the reader may say,

God's Word for today . . .

People **Thanks be to God.**

Time for reflection

We proclaim together

Hear, O Israel, the Lord our God, the Lord is one.
Love the Lord your God
with all your heart,
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.

The Prayers

Dear God, we thank you for all that is good, *Earth*
for our creation and our humanity,
for the stewardship you have given us
of this planet earth,
for the gifts of life and of one another,
for your Love, unbounded and eternal...
O thou, most Holy and Beloved,
our Companion,
our Morning Star,
our Guide upon the Way
bless our common journey, struggle and witness, **Amen.**

Jesus, Redeemer of the World, *Cause of living creatures*
Remind us to consider that which
Is lost or leaving in our local communities;
teach us not to squander precious resources;
help us value habitats: seas, deserts, forests
and seek to preserve this world in its diversity.
Alert us to the cause of all living creatures
destroyed wantonly for human greed or pleasure;
Help us to value what remains,
and to learn to live without taking more than we replenish. **Amen**

Spirit of the Living God *Delicate relationships*
At the beginning you moved over the face of the waters.

You brought life into being, the teeming life
that finds its way through earth and sea and air,
that makes its home around us, everywhere.
You know how living things flourish and grow
How they co-exist; how they feed and breed and change
Help us to understand those delicate relationships,
to value them and keep them from destruction. **Amen**

God, of the living earth *Wise use of resources*
You have called people to care for your world;
May we now understand how to sustain your world –
 Not over-fishing, not over-hunting,
 Not destroying trees, precious rainforest
 Not farming soil into useless dust.
Help us to find ways to use resources wisely
to find a path to good, sustainable living
in peace and harmony with creatures around us. **Amen**

Jesus, who raised the dead to life *Find solutions*
Help us to find ways to renew
what we have broken, damaged and destroyed:
Where we have taken too much water,
polluted the air, poured plastic into the sea,
cut down the forests and soured fertile soils.
Help all those who work to find solutions to
damage and decay; give hope to those
who are today working for a greener future. **Amen**

O God, our creator, *Prayer and politics*
who, in Jesus Christ, Walked the earth,
bless us with your Holy Spirit this day,
that our worship and our walking,
our prayers and our politics,
may give you glory and honour creation. **Amen** .

God, our Creator, as we look into the skies *Skies*
we celebrate the wonders of the worlds that surround us.
Help us to see your presence in the evening sky,
your spirit in the wind, your mercy in the falling rain.

Teach us to hear the good news from the sky
celebrating the glory of God in Earth.
Rejoice with us as we behold the dawn
revealing the mysteries of the skies above and Earth below. In the
name of Christ who unites heaven and Earth. **Amen.**

Jesus Christ, teach us to empathize with Earth. *Cries for justice*
Make our spirits sensitive to the cries of creation,
cries for justice from the air, the clouds and the sky,
cries of our fellow creatures deserted and dying.
Jesus Christ, make our faith sensitive to the groans of the Spirit
in creation, groans of longing for a new creation.
Jesus Christ, make our hearts sensitive to the songs of our kin,
songs of celebration echoing around us.
Christ, teach us to care. **Amen**

Holy Spirit, Breath of Life,
move in Creation,
blow us about,
fill the world with
new possibilities.
New Life!

Holy Spirit

As we share in story and in song,
we ask that our words and our breath,
might mingle with your Breath,
and be healing for the world. **Amen.**

The Lord's Prayer

Officiant Gathering our prayers and praises into one,
let us pray as our Saviour taught us,

All **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 for ever. Amen.

Sending Out

Officiant Christ calls you to be his disciples,
to serve him with love and compassion,
to serve earth by caring for her creatures.
Good friends, will you care for creation?

People **We will care for creation!**
We will nurture our animals!
We will celebrate the circle of life with them!

Officiant May the Spirit of God,
who is above all and in all and through all,
fill you with the knowledge of God's presence in Earth
and the pulsing of Christ within you.
Go in peace, serving Christ and loving all creatures!

People **We go in peace, as witnesses to God's love
serving Christ and all creation, Amen.**

God is the God who has compassion for all creation, whose living spirit is in all; a God who breaks down in us all our comforting prejudices and false securities, religious and secular. This is very painful for us, but it is the pain of rebirth.

GOD OF SURPRISES by Gerard W. Hughes