



Worship at Home for the Season of Creation

The season of Creationtide, also known as the Season of Creation, has its origins in the Eastern Orthodox Church which in 1989 declared September 1st as a day of prayer for creation. Over the following decades, as awareness of the present ecological challenges facing our world grew, this single day of prayer developed into a liturgical season running from September 1st to October 4th, the feast day of St Francis of Assisi. This season of Creationtide has been embraced by the leaders of the Anglican, Catholic and Orthodox churches, as well as by several major ecumenical groups including the World Council of Churches. During Creationtide Christians around the world are encouraged to pray for, and care for, God's good creation.

Notes on using these Worship at Home resources

We believe that wherever we worship God 'in Spirit and in truth', He will be present.

To worship in your household, choose a specific place - perhaps somewhere you can light a candle, and where you and those joining you can sit together undisturbed. Choose a time when you can be unhurried. Then read slowly through the service sheet, praying the prayers as you go. If you are with others, then one of you can take the lead and say the words in normal type, with the other(s) reading the lines in bold, or you could take it in turns to lead. If it is just you, then read it all yourself. Some people find it helps to read the prayers and responses aloud, even on their own.

The Bible readings and the Reflection, and the Prayers for Others (intercessions) are usually provided separately, and there are prompts in this service for you to read, ponder and/or pray them. Often Family Activities will be circulated too as part of the pack. At any point, you could pause to look at them, or do them later instead – whatever age you are!

We also often create a podcast or video version of the service which includes hymns and songs as well as the words and prayers here and the Bible readings and reflection of the day. You can use these words alongside the podcast or video to join in.

Find what works for you and, as you worship, pray and learn at home, may God bless you and those others doing the same both at home and in church buildings.

Gathering to worship God

In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen

Opening words

O come, let us worship and bow down,
let us kneel before the Lord our maker.
**It is He who made us, not we ourselves:
we are his people,
the sheep of his pasture.**

Let us come into his court with gratitude.
Let us enter his presence with praise.

Words of confession, forgiveness and praise

Pause for a moment here to reflect on the past week, its ups and downs and on your need of God's forgiveness and healing presence.

From before the world began and after the end of eternity,
You are God.
From the sea bursting out its womb to the wind ceasing from its chase,
You are God.
In the vastness of the universe and the forgotten corner of our hearts,
You are God.
You are our God, and we bless you.

(a silence)

Because the world is beautiful, and beauty is a tender thing,
and we are stewards of creation,
We need you, God.
We need you, God.

Because human knowledge seems endless, the world is our oyster,
and we do not know what we do not know.
We need you, God.
We need you, God.

Because we can live without you, and are free to go against you,
and could worship our wisdom alone,
We need you, God.
We need you, God.

Because you came among us, and sat beside us,
and heard us speak and saw us ignore you,

and healed our pain and let us wound you,
and loved us to the end,
and triumphed over all our hatred,
We need you, God.
We need you, God.

Because you, not we, are God,
We need you, God.
We need you, God.

(a silence)

Lord, have mercy.
Lord, have mercy.
Christ, have mercy.
Christ, have mercy.
Lord, have mercy.
Lord, have mercy.

The minister says words of forgiveness...

Listen, for the Lord who created you says:
"Do not be afraid, for I have redeemed you.
I have called you by name –
You are mine.
You are precious to me. I love you. I honour you. I am with you."

The Collect

This Sunday's prayer (collect) is included on the separate Bible Readings and Reflection pages.

Listening and responding to the Word of God

Bible readings and Reflections for this Sunday are provided separately. Please pause here, read and ponder them now. You might also like to use the family activities at this point.

Affirming our faith

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

**I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead.**

**On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church,
the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.**

Prayers for others and ourselves

Locally written prayers (intercessions) are also available from many of the Lordsbridge churches. You are welcome to use them here instead of or as well as the litany below.

Because you, God, love the world, because in Christ you walked it,
We dare to pray:
God send your Spirit;
Renew the life of the earth

To connect the words of ancient scripture to the life of the world today;
To let us hear the urgent summons of Jesus and overcome our reticence to respond,
God send your Spirit;
Renew the life of the earth

To awake the minds of those in power to the realities of those they govern;
To confront the arrogance of the privileged with the vulnerability of the poor,
God send your Spirit;
Renew the life of the earth

To engage the fragile state of the planet with those who carelessly abuse it;
To let the pain of those who are hurting awaken the caring potential in the healthy,
God send your Spirit;
Renew the life of the earth

To eradicate the distance between our convictions and commitments,
our potentials and our performance, our prayers and our politics,
our faith and our discipleship,
God send your Spirit;
Renew the life of the earth

Convince us, gracious God, that matter matters
And that all is up for redemption,
And since in Jesus you destined all to be changed and made new,
Enable us to be agents of your purpose.

Merciful Father,
**Accept these prayers for the sake of your Son
our Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen.**

The Lord's Prayer

**Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name;
thy kingdom come; thy will be done;
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation;
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom,
the power and the glory,
for ever and ever. Amen.**

Going out to serve God

To the living, creating God
We bring our questions and our sense of awe at creation.

To Christ, present in, through and within creation
We bring our sense of anger and injustice that this earth is not all it could be.

To the Spirit of wisdom, who breathes life through creation
We bring our hopes of humanity living with one another, earth restored.

God, Creator, Redeemer and Sustainer
**Go with us as we entrust the earth into each other's hands,
now and into the generations to come.**

**May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ,
and the love of God,
and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit,
be with us all evermore. Amen.**