

Liturgy for Climate Action (Praise, Repentance, Committal)

Originally developed by YECA Steering Committee member, Emma DeVries, for a prayer gathering at the 2014 Peoples Climate March in New York City.

Call to Worship (Ps. 24:1)

Liturgist: The Lord be with you

People: And also with you

Liturgist: The Earth is the Lord's, and
everything in it.

People: The world, and those who live in it.

Opening Psalm of Adoration (Ps. 8)

*People respond with bolded text

1 LORD, our Lord, how majestic is your name in all the earth!

You have set your glory in the heavens.

2 Through the praise of children and infants

you have established a stronghold against your enemies, to silence the foe and the avenger.

3 When I consider your heavens, the work of your fingers, the moon and the stars, which you have set in place,

4 what is humanity that you are mindful of them, human beings that you care for them?

5 You have made them a little lower than the angels and crowned them with glory and honor.

6 You made them rulers over the works of your hands; you put everything under their feet:

7 all flocks and herds, and the animals of the wild,

8 the birds in the sky, and the fish in the sea, all that swim the paths of the seas.

9 LORD, our Lord, how majestic is your name in all the earth!

Liturgist: This is the word of God, for us, the people of God.

People: Thanks be to God.

Song of Praise: He's got the Whole World in His Hands

*Words for all songs are printed on page 4

Prayer of Confession (Adapted from UCC Litany of Environmental Confession)

Liturgist: God, you created our planet, the birds, fish, and other animals and you saw all that you had created and called it good. God of life, you also formed us, the human family to be your co-regents in ruling over the works of your hands, and to act compassionately and gently to all forms of life.

People: Remind us, O God, and help us to change.

We confess that we often forget that we are utterly dependent upon you and interdependent with the rest of your creation. We confess that instead of acting compassionately and gently, we have instead over-used and abused creation, forgetting that our lifestyles impact others around the globe.

Forgive us, O God, and help us to change.

We confess that we have not done enough to protect our planet. We confess that we have failed to insist that our government act urgently and swiftly on climate. We confess that we, as consumers, have not held companies accountable for their reckless pollution and carbon consumption, nor have we worked hard enough to limit our own consumption and pollution.

Forgive us, O God, and help us to change.

God of wisdom, help us understand that whatever we do to the web of life we do to ourselves. God of power, help us acknowledge that we must act now and wake up to our moral obligation to the future of the planet, which you have entrusted to our hands.

Forgive us O God, and help us to change.

(All): God of grace and salvation, today we open our eyes, ears, and hearts to the pain of our planet amid the changing climate. We open our hearts to your truth, to see in you the way of healing and hope for our planet. We are beloved children of God, forgiven, renewed, and sent out into the world to work for the healing of our planet and for justice, in faithfulness to God.

Amen.

Assurance of Pardon

Liturgist: Receive this, the good news: "For as the heavens are high above the earth, so great is his steadfast love toward those who fear him; as far as the east is from the west, so far he removes our transgressions from us." (Psalm 103: 11-12)

In the name of Jesus, you are forgiven.

People: In the name of Jesus, you are forgiven.

Song of Response: This is My Father's World

Prayers of the People

Liturgist: O Lord, grant us the grace to respect and care for your creation.

People: Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

O Lord, move among our political leaders, that they would act with integrity and justice. May they enact policies that protect those who already suffer the effects of climate change and that prevent future changes in climate from occurring.

Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

Let us now offer prayers for our political leaders, for the spirit to move that they might overcome national and partisan divides and act swiftly on behalf of the poor and oppressed.

Time for individuals to offer prayers for our political leaders and the political process. Prayers may be offered aloud, all at once, for a minute or so. At the conclusion, the liturgist will say, "Lord, in your mercy," and the people will respond, "hear our prayer.**"**

O Lord, send your spirit upon your Bride, the Church, that she might be a prophetic voice for climate action. We pray for our fellow people of faith to be bold and courageous in this fight. For those who struggle to see the reality of climate change, send wisdom and light to break down whatever barriers keep people from the truth. And for those of us who acknowledge the reality of climate change, help us to speak gently and lovingly as we engage with those with whom we disagree. And send your spirit of unity to embolden us to act together, even amid our many differences, to serve you and our neighbors that suffer from the changing climate, oh God.

Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer

Let us now offer prayers for the church, that our sisters and brothers of the global church would stand up united and without fear to work for climate action.

** Time for individuals to offer prayers for the church.*

Oh Lord, may our work for climate action be a witness that points to you—for you are the source of all our yearnings for justice, mercy, and peace. Send your spirit upon us today as we march; and send your spirit with us when we return to our homes and communities, to strengthen us and keep us from any fears and barriers to being prophetic voices for climate action. God of Sarah and Abraham, Rebekah and Isaac, Rachel and Jacob --without you, we would not be here at all, so for all the great mercy and goodness you have granted to us before, grant to us today, and will grant to us in the future, we humbly thank you and offer you our utmost praise.

Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer. Amen.

Song of Unity: We are One in the Spirit

Prayer for Faithful Leadership on Climate (from CRC)

Creator God, we declare with joy and trust that our world belongs to you.
For the fierce love with which you hold us and the rest of your creation, we declare
Our world belongs to God.

For creation's awesome beauty and its bountiful provision, we declare
Our world belongs to God.

For the manifold ways that it reveals your glory and draws us closer to you, we declare
Our world belongs to God.

Amidst its present groaning, we declare
Our world, broken and scarred, still belongs to God.

To our leaders, working to seek answers to the climate crisis, we declare
Our world belongs to God.

May our leaders be motivated by compassion, and not by fear. May their goal be justice and equity, not political posturing.

For the sake of the people and the ministries of your Church across the globe already being affected by climate disruption, may we seek consensus over controversy; action over apathy.

For the sake of our children and grandchildren, we confess our complicity in creation's degradation, recommit ourselves to our earthkeeping task, and gratefully declare
Our world belongs to God.

As your people, participating now in your ongoing work of renewal and longing for the day when you will bring that work to completion, we declare
Our world belongs to God.

Our world belongs to you, O God.
Hallelujah! Come, Lord Jesus.

Benediction

Go now, in peace, to love and serve the triune God and all that God has created, ever seeking justice for the oppressed and acting with gentleness and compassion toward all God's creatures.

Amen.

Song of Sending: Doxology

He's Got the Whole World in His Hands

He's got the whole world in His hands (x4)

He's got the earth and the sky in His hands (x3)
He's got the whole world in His hands

He's got you and me, brother, in His hands
He's got you and me, sister, in His hands
He's got you and me, brother, in His hands
He's got the whole world in His hands

This is My Father's World

This is my Father's world, and to my listening ears
All nature sings, and round me rings the music of the spheres.
This is my Father's world: I rest me in the thought
Of rocks and trees, of skies and seas;
His hand the wonders wrought.

This is my Father's world. O let me ne'er forget
That though the wrong seems oft so strong, God is the ruler yet.
This is my Father's world: the battle is not done:
Jesus Who died shall be satisfied,
And earth and Heav'n be one.

We are One in the Spirit

We are One in The Spirit, we are One in The Lord.
We are One in The Spirit, we are One in The Lord.
And we pray that all unity may one day be restored.

And they'll know we are Christians by our love, by our love,
Yes they'll know we are Christians by our love.

We will walk with each other, we will walk hand in hand.
We will walk with each other, we will walk hand in hand.
And together we'll spread the news that God is in our land.

Doxology

Praise God from Whom all blessings flow
Praise God all creatures here below
Praise God above ye heavenly host
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost
Amen