

Prayer Series – Lenten Prayers for Creation

Year A

Lent is a time to feel our brokenness and ask God for healing and restoration. We lament, through these prayers, the pain and suffering we have inflicted on the earth and all God's creations. We stand before the God of hope and healing, sadly acknowledging our role and asking forgiveness. We know we have not been forsaken, but resting in lament and forgiveness is not enough, we must listen to God's call for action! Through these prayers, may the spirit of God move us, not just during Lent, but far beyond.

The prayers follow the Revised Common Lectionary Year A readings for Lent and Easter. These prayers can be read by an individual or by the full congregation. Where there is **bolded text**, it is meant to be read by a different voice (or voices).

Lent 1 – Days of Creation

Genesis 2

Lent 2 – I Lift My Eyes to the Mountains

Psalm 121

Lent 3 – Give Us Water to Drink

Exodus 17:1-17; John 4:5-42

Lent 4 – Once You Were in Darkness ...

Psalm 23; Ephesians 5:8-14; John 9:1-41

Lent 5 – O Dry Bones, Hear the Word of the Lord

Ezekiel 37:1-14; Psalm 130

Palm Sunday – Are You Still Sleeping, the Time Is at Hand

Matthew 21:1-11

Easter Sunday – Healer of the World, Restore Us through the Resurrection

Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24; Matthew 28:1-10

Congregational Prayer – Days of Creation

Year A, Lent 1

Genesis 2

Creator God,

In the beginning

by your Word everything came into being.

You created humankind from the soil of the earth,

adam from adamah, human from humus,

you breathed life into your creation.

You planted a garden

and placed the human in its midst.

You filled the garden

with fertile soil,

with trees of abundance,

with animals and life of all kinds.

Through the garden

flowed the rivers of life.

Your creation was good

and you invited us to participate

in this good creation.

Creator of all that is good,

forgive us.

We have mishandled and abused

what you have made.

We have taken the life you breathed

and polluted and injured it.

We have placed ourselves above all else

and used your creation without care.

Creator of all that is good,
forgive us.
We have damaged your earth,
and caused it great pain.
We have chased your creatures
into extinction.
We have jeopardized our very lives,
the lives you have given.

Creator of all that is good,
forgive us.
You have give us eyes,
help us see.
You have given us hands,
help us act.
You have given us minds,
help us think.
You have given us hearts,
help us love
all that you have made.

Creator of all that is good,
forgive us and move us.

Amen.

Congregational Prayer – I Lift My Eyes to the Mountains

Year A, Lent 2

Psalm 121

Creator God,
you have set the mountains in their places,
you have made the mountain your dwelling place.

I lift up my eyes to the mountains—
where does my help come from?

*My help comes from the Lord,
the Maker of heaven and earth.*

From the heights the land is nourished
with water from the streams.
In the forests
your creatures make their homes,
the birds nest in your trees.

*God will not let your foot slip—
the Lord who watches over you will not slumber;
indeed, God who watches over Israel
will neither slumber nor sleep.*

The earth cries out to you for rescue;
you turn to us.
We have not cared
for the resources the earth provides,
for the habitats of the birds of the air,
the animals of the ground,
the creatures of the water.

*The Lord watches over you—
the Lord is your shade at your right hand;
the sun will not harm you by day,
nor the moon by night.*

We have broken open the mountains and the lands
to extract our devices,
to dig for our treasures,
to draw out our fuel.

*The Lord will keep you from all harm—
God will watch over your life;*

Convict us O God,
make us see the harm we have caused.
Stir in us a desire for change,
move us to action,
move us to participate in your re-creation.

*The Lord will watch over your coming and going
both now and forevermore.*

Draw us to the mountain
that we may behold the beauty of your creation
that we might love what you love.

Creator of all that is good,
forgive us and change us.

Amen.

Congregational Prayer – Give Us Water to Drink

Year A, Lent 3

Exodus 17:1–7; John 4:5–42

God of creation and God of living water,
you have poured out life upon your creation.
As you gave water to the Israelites in the desert
you have provided for us.

But to the water that gives life
we have made death.
We have polluted the streams that flow;
we have dammed rivers and flooded lands
and created barren land,
dry and parched.

Wells have become tainted
and towns have been poisoned.
We have made “boil water” an advisory
and stolen the life from communities.

We have taken free flowing water
and made it a commodity.
Water has become a means of profit
as the life is taken from it.

Our actions have caused
deadly monsoons and flooding;
they have brought disastrous rains
and scorching droughts.

You have promised the river of life-giving water;
one that can nurture the tree of life,
that can bring healing.
We ask for healing of our hearts.

Creator God,
forgive us
for all the harm to your creation;
for bringing pain and sorrow
to the land and the creatures.

Stir us to act
that we might see the life you have created
in the rivers and streams,
the lakes and oceans.

Creator of all that is good,
forgive us and change us.

We pray in the name of the one
who brings living water.

Amen.

Once You Were in Darkness ...

Year A, Lent 4

Psalm 23; Ephesians 5:8–14; John 9:1–41

God of light,
you have called us out of darkness,
out of the dark night of our denial.

We have wandered into the shadow of death,
we have taken our own path
and now cry out for deliverance.
You have shown us the way of light,
the way of your good creation.

We have brought confusion over the earth;
we have been the bearers of pain.
We have covered our eyes
and let ignorance lead us.

We accuse those who would show us
the right way.
We are attached to ignorance,
We prefer it to knowledge.

Open our eyes and give us sight,
wash the mud from our vision;
Give us honest eyes
and willing hearts.

Your desire is for us to enjoy
your beauty and your abundance.
You call us to rest in your green pastures,
to be nourished by your still waters.
You long to prepare for us a feast
that all may take part.

Creator of all that is good,
forgive us and change us.

We pray in the name of the one
who is the light in darkness.

Amen.

O Dry Bones, Hear the Word of the Lord

Year A, Lent 5

Ezekiel 37:1–14; Psalm 130

Out of the depths
we call to you, O God.
How can we stand before you,
when our sins are revealed.

Through our selfish actions
we have brought death;
The land cries out to you
with the pain of our greed.
The waters cry out to you,
choked with our excess.
The animals cry out to you,
chased from their habitats.

*We are dry bones,
can these bones live again?
You know, O Lord God.*

*The land is dry and parched,
can it again sustain life?
You know, O Lord God.*

Is all hope gone;
have we gone too far?
Do dry bones remain dead;
has the earth given up on us?

Forgive us, O God.
Give us ears to hear your word,
bring your four winds
to breathe upon us.

Forgive us, O God.
Blow your wind through us;
rattle these bones together
that they might rise and act.

May we again be partners
in your creation.
May the earth and all its parts
sing again in harmony.
May life return again
to the garden of your creation.

Creator of all that is good,
forgive us and restore us.

We pray in the name of the one
who brings life and is life.

Amen.

Are You Still Sleeping, the Time Is at Hand

Year A, Palm Sunday

Matthew 21:1-11

Creator of the sun and moon,
of the day and night.
Wake us from our sleep
for we know the time is at hand.

We have been sleeping too long
and have closed our eyes to our own actions.
We have betrayed your good creation;
we have put our interests above all else.

Creation itself cries to you
through the voice of the psalmist:

*Be gracious to me, O Lord,
for I am in distress;
my eye wastes away from grief,
my soul and body also.
For my life is spent with sorrow,
and my years with sighing;
my strength fails because of my misery,
and my bones waste away.*

Forgive us, O God
for we have denied your goodness in the earth.
Forgive us, O God
for we have failed in our care for your creation.

Give us ears to hear today's prophets;
to heed their call to action.

Now is the time
to rise from our beds of comfort.

Now is the time
to turn toward your goodness.

Creator of all that is good,
forgive us and restore us.

We pray in the name of the one
who calls us to get up and follow.

Amen.

Healer of the World, Restore Us through the Resurrection

Year A, Easter Sunday

Psalm 118:1–2, 14–24; Matthew 28:1–10

O give thanks to the Lord,
for God is good.
The Lord's steadfast love endures forever.

Your love, O Lord,
is seen throughout your creation.
Your love sent Jesus to us
and raised him on the third day.

Your love brings healing;
in your love is restoration.
Heal our desires;
restore our compassion for creation.

We have caused pain;
our actions have brought death.
The earth groans in agony;
the animals of the ground suffer.
The waters are choked;
the birds of the air search for life.

Forgive us
for our neglect and abuse.
Forgive us
for our selfish greed.
Take away
our need to dominate.

Fill us with your love
that we may be your instruments.
Fill us with your spirit
that we might bring healing and restoration.

Creator of all that is good,
forgive us and raise us up.

We pray in the name of the one
who came, who lived,
who rose to new life,
that ALL may live.

Amen.

Len Rempel (Canada), 2023. Mennonite Church Saskatchewan Climate Emergency Response Team (CERT)
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