

Prayer Series – Season of Creation

Year A – Let Justice Roll Down

Key text: Amos 5:24

Churches throughout the world have begun to mark the period from September 1 to October 4 (5 Sundays) as the “season of creation.” At a time when the vulnerability of God’s creation to human activity has become a matter of vital concern, we have an opportunity to focus on appreciating and better understanding the “natural” world, and to work on restoring our relationship with it under God. This year’s focus is “Let justice roll down” (Amos 5:24) – a reminder that the way we relate to the rest of creation affects the livelihood of our fellow human beings, both locally and globally.

To mark this time, we have prepared prayers for each Sunday during the Season of Creation fitting a theme in one of the passages in the Revised Common Lectionary for that day. There are also PowerPoint slides that can be used to assist your congregation. The prayers may be read in unison or by designated leaders. Scripture references may be read out loud by the leader.

These resources will also be available on the Mennonite Church Saskatchewan website - <https://mcsask.ca/>. We would love to hear your feedback on how these prayers were used and received by your congregation. You can find more about the Season of Creation, including various resources, at <https://seasonofcreation.org>. Also see CommonWord’s extensive list of “Creation Care” materials – to buy, borrow, or access online – <https://www.commonword.ca/go/2256>.

May these prayers of confession and re-commitment lead you and your congregation into God’s presence with a renewed spirit of engagement and action.

Sunday One

Year A, Proper 17

Exodus 3:4-5

God, you are holy.

We come into your presence,
we come to this holy place.

Remove the sandals —

of our privilege,
of our pride,
of our strength,
of our selves.

We enter into your presence.

We stand on your holy ground.

You have created by your word
and you have called all your creation good.

In this season,

we turn ourselves to you,
we seek to follow you.

We turn ourselves to

your creation,
your holy ground.

Psalm 105:1, 4

We call to you with our mouths;
we recall your deeds of creation.

Yet we rely on our own strength.
And our own strength has destroyed.

Our own strength has oppressed and misused
your creation,
your holy ground.

Our sandals are dirty;
soiled by our footprint,
drenched in the fossil fuels of *our* strength.

Our sandals are harmful;
stained with the blood of creation,
soaked in the scent of extinction.

Our sandals are unclean;
unfit for your holy ground,
in need of removal.

God, you are holy.
You invite us into your presence,
and call us to this holy place.

We remove the sandals —
of our privilege,
of our pride,
of our strength,
of our selves.

Your presence moves us.
Our soles touch your holy ground.

You have called to us out of the burning bush.

May we have ears to listen, and feet to move.

Amen.

Sunday Two

Year A, Proper 18

Ezekiel 33:7, 10-11

We pray to you, LORD God,
with our confession.

We are weighed down,
we continue to waste away.

We are discouraged
and we need hope.

It is you who formed the earth.
You created the universe
and called it good.

Our hope is in you –
the giver of breath,
the sustainer of all life.

You have sent your prophets
in days of old and today.

We have heard their speech;
their call continues to ring out.

Give us ears to listen
and hands to act.

Psalm 119:33-35

Help us delight in your words,
that they might find meaning in our actions.

Lead us in your path
for the good of all your creation.

LORD God,
creator of all that is good.

Our hope is in you.
Be our strength and our guide.

You have called to us
by your prophets.

May we have ears to listen,
and feet to move.

Amen.

Sunday Three

Year A, Proper 19

Exodus 15:1b-2, 9-10, 21b

Father God,
we do not seek the destruction of our human enemies.

We seek rather the destruction of evil itself –
of greed and selfishness,
of the desire to dominate.

Lord Jesus,
in your cross and resurrection
you triumphed over death and evil.

You disarmed the principalities and powers
and made a public spectacle of them.

And so nothing can now separate us
from the love of God.

You have made us more than conquerors.

And yet we act as if that is not enough.

We want more;
we seek control and dominance.

We put our desires and appetites
above others' needs.

We claim exclusive control
of the bounty you created for sharing.

We devastate your good creation
for our material gain.

We threaten the life of all
through the impact of our emissions on the climate,
through actions which cause species to go extinct,
through pollution of land, water and air,
and through our drive for endless growth.

There is both good and evil in all people
and there is both good and evil in us.

Help us to repent of the evil
and uphold the good.

Forgive us, Lord, and transform us.

Philippians 2:5-11

Amen.

Sunday Four

Year A, Proper 20

Exodus 16:13-15

Father God,
give us today our daily bread.

The bread of enough,
The bread to meet our need
but not our greed.

As you gave your people manna in the wilderness,
There was enough for everyone.

So transform us.
That we will trust you to give us enough.

Perplexed by the manna, the people of Israel asked, "what is it?"
They found it was good.

So give us a childlike trust
in the mystery of your bounty.

Lord Jesus, we ask you to renew and transform us.
That we may come closer to you, the bread of life,
to learn with our hearts,
to receive and give freely,
to live in communion with You,
to follow in Your way,
and to know that enough is enough.

We pray for those who do not have enough –
The 700 million people with extreme hunger
[pause]

And for those working to help them.
[pause]

We pray for a just society
where all can eat,
where the needs of the poor and the needs of the earth
are recognised and honoured.

Come, Holy Spirit,
renew the earth and the people.

Before we ask for our daily bread
we seek the coming of your just reign
in our lives and in the world.

Amen.

Sunday Five

Year A, Proper 21

Exodus 17:2-3, 5-6

We come before you,
Lord God, our provider, our source of life.

You give us water,
which we need to live.

You cause it to spring from the rock in the desert.
You give water for all to live.

We confess we have not always been good caretakers.

We have hoarded and polluted,
filled the oceans with the plastic of our consumption.

We buy and sell what you give freely — water in the desert.

You call us to be partners in Your creation.
What have we done, O God?
What have we undone?

You call us now to action.
How will we respond?
What is our answer to your call?

Psalm 78:1-3, Matthew 21:28-32

May we be the ones of action;
may our response resound!

Grant us courage to let our voice be seen in the work of our hands.

May water again spring forth giving life to all the earth:
clean and uncluttered,
free and available to all.

You call us to be a people of action.

May your call inspire us
to lead the way,
to strike the rock that your justice might flow.

Amen.

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