

Complete Service – Creation Care Lament and Hope

You are invited to adapt this service for your context, naming, and honoring the Indigenous People who have stewarded the land where you are located and who are still there incorporating the native species for your environment and location, and referring to the current season.

Gathering & Welcome

Take a moment to look around you and acknowledge the faces in the circle, and this place where we have gathered –the sky and earth, the trees and plants, squirrels and birds, snow, and sun. Close your eyes. Notice your breathing. Feel the freshness of the air entering your body, feel its coolness (and the sun’s warmth) on your face. Listen to the sounds of this place (breeze, birds, silence). Feel the earth firm beneath your feet, holy ground, supporting your body, supporting all life.

Broaden your awareness to God’s Presence below us, above us, before us, behind us, in All Things yet held by No-Thing. “Creator, we give you thanks for this place, this land where we have gathered, and we are mindful that we are settlers or sojourners on land that was and is home to the Haudenosaunee, Neutral, and Anishinabe people since long before we arrived.”

Lament & Confession

It is important, spiritually, to make time to remember and name, in sorrow and anger, what we have loved, endangered, damaged, or lost. Let us enter into a time of lament and confession before God and each other. I will give an opening for a specific area of lament, and invite you to offer a word or phrase. We will end each section with singing together a version of the *Kyrie*, which means “Lord have mercy, Christ have mercy.” Let’s sing it together once – I will sing a line and then you echo it.

Litany

Christ, our Wounded Healer, who suffers the pains of creation, we bring to you our prayers of lament for the Earth. In your mercy, receive our prayers as we name the species of our province that are threatened, endangered or extirpated:

Kyrie eleison, Christe eleison

Christ, our Wounded Healer, who suffers the pains of creation, we bring before you our laments as we name other environmental concerns we carry:

Kyrie eleison, Christe eleison

Christ, our Wounded Healer, who suffers the pains of creation, we hold before you other griefs and laments that are on our hearts today:

Kyrie eleison, Christe eleison

Christ, our Wounded Healer, who suffers the pains of creation, *kyrie eleison*, have mercy on us. In your kindness and love, you have asked humanity to be caretakers for your Creation, to live as your image-bearers in a world you created with delight. We confess that we have turned from your will, often abusing Creation for greedy and short-sighted purposes. Now we are facing global climate disruption and other ecological crises as a result of our rebellion. Forgive us our sins, and the sins of our society, which have failed to care for what you created for good. In your mercy, lead us to repentance, compassion, and life. May your will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Amen.

As we transition into communion as a ritual of hope, hear these words from scripture:

Deuteronomy 30:19 - "I have set before you life and death . . . therefore choose life."

Remembering that Jesus came to renew us and the whole world, we will offer the first piece of bread and the last drops of juice to the earth.

Eat and drink one and all, whoever hungers and thirsts for renewal. All are welcome. We will come around with the elements. If you want to participate, simply open your hands to receive. Please let us know if you want a gluten-free option. We will serve all the bread first, and then eat together, and repeat again with the juice.

(Break piece of bread and place it on the earth; serve everyone; after all have been served pour some juice onto the earth).

Prayer of Thanks *(following receiving communion)*

Our God of abundance has fed us with the bread of life and the cup of love. With deep appreciation and thanks for the communion we share with each other and with the earth, I send you with this blessing:

God of mercy and compassion, you have fed us with the bread of life and the cup of love. You have reunited us with Christ, with the Earth, and with one another. With deep appreciation

for the communion we share with all creation through the risen Christ, we offer you our thanks. Amen.

Dismissal

May God's blessings be yours this day and everyday.

Wendy Janzen (Canada), 2019. Burning Bush Forest Church

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