

# COMPANIONS' WORSHIP JUNE 2021

## CELEBRATING CREATION



***Earth shall be fair and all her people one***

### GREETING

The whole universe is a gift of God.

Everything here is a gift of God.

We are the gifts of God to each other.

We are all part of the procession of life.

**Let us celebrate as we sing of our joy in God's creation.**

HYMN: Touch the earth lightly [CH4 243] <https://youtu.be/EcwyMmf3q0g>  
(alt tune: Nothing distress you R& S 548)

Touch the earth lightly, use the earth gently.  
Nourish the life of the world in our care:  
Gift of great wonder, ours to surrender,  
Trust for the children tomorrow will bear.

We who endanger, who create hunger,  
agents of death for all creatures that live,  
We who would foster clouds of disaster,  
God of our planet, forestall and forgive!

Let there be greening, birth from the burning,  
Water that blesses and air that is sweet,  
Health in God's garden, hope in God's children,  
Regeneration that peace will complete.

God of all living, God of all loving,  
God of the seeding, the snow and the sun,  
Teach us, deflect us, Christ reconnect us,  
Using us gently and making us one.

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### OPENING PRAYERS

Out of nothingness we came through birth into life:

**With the Spirit of God within us.**

From the life of God the universe unfolded into being:

**With the Spirit of God within it.**

From the heart of God creation goes on till the end of time:

**With the Spirit of God within it and with our spirit within it.**

Let us delight in God who enfolds us in hid love.

Response: **Praise you Lord for your love which is seen in all the earth,  
Reaching out to us all, offering the world new birth.**

### CONFESSION

Creator God,

we confess that our creating often goes wrong.

We are sometimes ignorant, we are sometimes careless.

We are sometimes short-sighted and self-interested.

Let us be aware of our failures in creation.....

Forgive us, gracious God.

We long to live in harmony with all that you have given to us.

#### ASSURANCE OF PARDON

God is always the creator and the re-creator.

Let us celebrate the recreation

which is offered to us at this moment!

**Response: Praise you Lord for your love which is seen in all the earth,  
Reaching out to us all, offering the world new birth.**

#### A STORY CELEBRATING THE WONDER OF CREATION

God made everything (Genesis 1) from The Bible Story by Philip Turner

Before the beginning there was only God and nothing else at all. On the first day that all things started, God sent his Spirit winging over the emptiness that was not himself, like a white bird over a grey and tumbling sea.....

On the first day God said, 'Let there be light,' and the sun came up like a shining new penny over the empty sea, and that first night there was a riding moon, and the stars were like a million holes in a blue velvet sky....

Then there was a week of making; such a week as God had not known before. Dry land came like a whale out of the water, and on the land, grass – green as gooseberries – and gooseberries themselves, and great trees thrusting up out of the warm earth, their leaves whispering in astonishment at the breeze. In the sea below the un-trodden beach there was the silver flicker of a thousand kinds of fish, and beneath them in the great deeps the sea monsters, Leviathan and his kind.....

To fly in the sky, God made winged creatures: butterflies, pretty as paint; dragon-flies like jewels in the air; and all manner of birds – from the one-inch humming-bird which can also fly backwards, to the great albatross soaring over the ocean like the Spirit of God.....

God made creatures to live on the dry land. He made the dappled fawn standing in the glade by the pool. He made the giraffe, so proud, so very proud, saying to all beneath him, 'Oh, who but me has a neck like a fire escape?'....

He made the lynx with the long tail, and the Manx cat with no tail, and the wise grey elephant with legs like logs and a tail at both ends. From the small snail with his fragile house on his back to the tawny lion, king of the jungle and needing no house, God made them all....

Last of all, God said, 'I will make human beings in my likeness and after my image.' So out of the dust of the earth God formed the first man and breathed life into his nostrils. And the first man, Adam, stood on the new earth and looked into the eyes of God. And he was not afraid....

Let us affirm the wonder of creation together:

**God spoke light into the void  
and the light is in our hands  
against the darkness.**

**God clothed the world with sky  
and we ride upon the wind  
and breathe among the leaves.**

**God gifted us with earth  
and with water in between.**

**We dig and float and drink and grow  
and know the power of earth and sea.  
We paint and sing and work and dance  
in company with God.**

**We share the earth with all that is  
in harmonies of warm and cold,  
in green and desert, crowd and lone,  
we feel the pain, we feel the joy.**

**God is our father and our mother,  
Christ is our brother, the Spirit within us.**

**We celebrate our sharing in the recreating of the world.**

## PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Let us sit still among the pain of the world. *Silence*

Let us name some of the pains of the world.....*(in silence or aloud)*

Beside each other, within the earth,  
part of the earth and of the earth,  
we are vulnerable with her, and are her people.

We are people of pain and fear,  
we are people of anger and joy,  
we are people of compassion and grace.

**We are one with each other,  
and one with God.**

In all of us is a longing  
for a life that has not yet come,  
for a world that is free and just,  
a dream of hope for all people.

**Together with God  
we will create that possibility.**

*We pray for people we know to be in need of God's re-creating love, and for our fellow Companions*

**Companions' Prayer: O God, here we are, all devoted to you; make us according to your heart.  
In Christ make us one that the world may believe; mould us according to your heart.**

**HYMN We praise and bless you, Lord** (Tune: Carlisle R&S 391) <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bgSe-adnsok>

We praise and bless you, God  
and shout aloud your fame;  
for you have given us the earth.  
How excellent your name!

We ask for grace to see  
that we must change our ways,  
as guardians of this precious world –  
Live simply every day.

Lord, give us thankful hearts  
for all that we possess,  
and help us share more generously  
with those who have much less.

Praise God, the king of earth  
Praise Jesus Christ the Son  
and praise the Holy Spirit's power  
who joins us all as one.

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## CLOSING PRAYER

Let us go forth and share in the recreating of the world.

**We go in faith to be the people of the new creation.**

BLESSING (to each other)

**May the sun warm your soul and the moon be gentle above you.**

**May the Creator hold your hand and the Christ walk in your footsteps.**

**May the Spirit dance in your playing and grace be found in your way. Amen.**