**Liturgy for Worship- centered on Genesis 1**

**Call To Worship**

*from Psalm 146:1-2, 6-8 (CEB)*

﻿Praise the LORD!

**Let our whole being praise the LORD!**

We will praise the LORD with all our life;

**We will sing praises to our God as long as we live.**

God: the maker of heaven and earth, the sea, and all that is in them.

**God: who is faithful forever, who gives justice to people who are oppressed, who gives bread to people who are starving!**

The LORD: who frees prisoners, makes the blind see, who straightens up those who are bent low, who loves the righteous.

**Praise the LORD!**

**Hymn Morning Has Broken**

**Creation Prayer of Adoration and Confession**

Call to Prayer

God’s faithfulness is demonstrated in this: each morning the sun rises on the evil and

good alike. Let us be faithful in response as we bring our prayers of adoration and

confession to the Lord.

Prayer of Adoration and ConfessionGenesis 1, Psalm 24:1; Jeremiah 4:24-26; Jeremiah 9:10; Romans 8:22

Creator God, you spoke the universe into being. You designed the earth to be self-renewing.

Water gathered into the seas, rises and gathers as clouds, that again water

the earth. Seeds rise up from the dirt and grow into plants, that again seed the earth.

Created in your image, you named us stewards of your creation. You blessed it – and

us – and said, “It is very good.”

**The earth is the LORD’s and everything in it, the world and its inhabitants**

**too. Because God is the one who established it on the seas; God set it**

**firmly on the waters.** (Psalm 24:1, CEB)

But we have not always stewarded God’s creation well, for thus says the Lord:

I looked at the mountains and they were quaking; all the hills were rocking back and

forth. I looked and there was no one left; every bird in the sky had taken flight. I

looked and the fertile land was a desert; all its towns were in ruins before the LORD,

(Jeremiah 4:24-26, CEB)

I will weep and wail for the mountains, and lament for the grazing lands in the

wilderness. They are dried up and deserted; no sound of the flocks is heard; no sign

of birds or animals is seen; all have vanished. (Jeremiah 9:10, CEB)

**We know that the whole creation is groaning together and suffering labor**

**pains up until now.** (Romans 8:22, NRSV)

Creator God, you spoke the universe into being. You designed the earth to be self-renewing.

Forgive us our self-destruction. Teach us how to care for your creation.

Amen.

**Assurance of Forgiveness *from Isaiah 43:19 (NRSV)***

Thus says the Lord: I am about to do a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it? I will make a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert.

We are a new creation. In the name of Jesus Christ we are forgiven!

**Prayer for Illumination**

Holy Spirit, you swept over the unformed waters bearing witness to the birth of God’s creation. We pray that you would be our witness now, so that God’s Word may be birthed in us. Amen.

**Scripture Genesis 1:1-31**

**Sermon**

**Prayers of the People**

Called from the beginning to care for all that God has created, let us pray for the church, the world and all whom God has created.

We give you thanks, O God, for our world, which you made and renewed in the power of Jesus' resurrection. Make us wise and careful of your gifts as we live on earth.

We pray that the love which ceaselessly passes between the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit may renew and deepen the life of each Christian and draw us all into your unending life.

For the leaders of the church in all her forms, around the world and here at home, and for the ecumenical endeavors that seek to bring us closer to each other and to you, we pray.

For the earth and all creatures and plants; for healthy soil, air, and water; for policies and laws that regard our home on God's earth as precious, Abundant Creator, hear our prayer.

For our families, households, and communities, that your life together--Father, Son, and Holy Spirit- may show us the like importance of each of us, strengthening us in grace and truth, and teaching us to tear down walls of racism, classism, sexism, or any prejudice which divides, we lift our prayers to you.

For the sick and those who suffer in any way; for those who struggle to pay the rent or mortgage; for those who have no home; for those who are neglected or abused in our communities; for the lonely; for those wracked with anxiety or fear, we pray, O God of mercy.

For all those needs unnamed before you and all we would name before you now......................we pray.

Into your hands, we place our concerns, longing for the day that your will will be done on earth as it is in heaven, in the name of Jesus Christ who taught us to pray.

﻿The Lord's Prayer

**Hymn For the Beauty of the Earth**

**Sent Into the World**

In mystery and grandeur, we see the face of God; in earthiness and the ordinary, we know the love of Christ.

In heights and depths and life and death, the Spirit of God is moving among us.

I will be a light in the name of God who lit the world and breathed the breath of life into me.

I will be a light in the name of the Son who saves the world and stretches out his hand to me.

I will be a light in the name of the Spirit who encompasses the world and blesses my soul with yearning.

And may the triune God, the beginning, the end, the everlasting one, make you to shine like the sun, bearing the light of God all your days. Amen.

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The liturgy for this service was put together by Michelle Henrichs (Call, Confession, Assurance, and Prayer for Illumination) and Ann Gibbs with resources adapted from *Feasting on the Word, Liturgies for Year A, volume 2, and Imaging the Word , Volume 3.*