

For All Creation

A Vigil of Prayer and Meditation
for the Healing of the
Gulf of Mexico and all Creation



But most human beings were content with
being the centre of their universe
and had forgotten
the voice of God.

*Music Insert, Come and fill
O Lord, hear my prayer*

WELCOME

SILENCE

In the beginning, all was darkness and God said:
“Let there be light.”

And because God had said it, there was light.

In the beginning, all was silence and God sang the
song of creation.

*And because God sang, all the stars and spheres
vibrated to the music of God.*

In the beginning, all was still and God laughed.

*And because God laughed, the waters took up the
roar and the ripple of it; and ebbed and glowed and
seeped and swirled and delighted in the ways of its
being.*

In the beginning, all was dull and God painted.

*And because God painted, the sky became blue –
and purple – and pink and rainbows hung there.
The grass became green and flowers and butterflies
danced in the drips and settled like jewels on the
earth.*

In the beginning, all was unconscious and God
breathed.

*And because God breathed, men and women woke
up from their sleeping. They breathed of the very
life of God and stood in wonder before the work of
God’s hands. They beheld the glory of God in all
that God had made and saw that it was very good.*

SILENCE

Music Insert, Our darkness

For Joy in God’s Creation

O heavenly Father, who has filled the world with
beauty: Open our eyes to behold your gracious hand
in all your works; that, rejoicing in your whole
creation, we may learn to serve you with gladness;
for the sake of him through whom all things were
made, your Son Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

SILENCE

A Reading from the Book of Ezekiel [47:6-12]

He said to me, “Mortal, have you seen this?” Then he
led me back along the bank of the river. As I came
back, I saw on the bank of the river a great many
trees on the one side and on the other. He said to me,
“This water flows toward the eastern region and goes
down into the Arabah; and when it enters the sea, the
sea of stagnant waters, the water will become fresh.
Wherever the river goes, every living creature that
swarms will live, and there will be very many fish,
once these waters reach there. It will become fresh;
and everything will live where the river goes. People
will stand fishing beside the sea from En-gedi to En-
eglaim; it will be a place for the spreading of nets; its
fish will be of a great many kinds, like the fish of the
Great Sea. But its swamps and marshes will not
become fresh; they are to be left for salt. On the
banks, on both sides of the river, there will grow all
kinds of trees for food. Their leaves will not wither
nor their fruit fail, but they will bear fresh fruit every
month, because the water for them flows from the
sanctuary. Their fruit will be for food, and their
leaves for healing.”

The Word of the Lord. *Thanks be to God.*

SILENCE

For the Beauty of the Earth

We give you thanks, most gracious God, for the beauty of earth and sky and sea; for the richness of mountains, plains, and rivers; for the songs of birds and the loveliness of flowers. We praise you for these good gifts, and pray that we may safeguard them for our posterity. Grant that we may continue to grow in our grateful enjoyment of your abundant creation, to the honor and glory of your Name, now and for ever. *Amen.*

Music Insert, This is God's world

SILENCE

In the beginning God saw all that was made

And indeed it was very good

And God wanted to share it all with human beings
And indeed...

God had a problem!

Human beings stopped gazing in wonder –
and forgot to see God in the majesty of Creation

*They stopped seeing
a thousand shades of green*

and blue

and yellow

and red...

and became content with drabness.

God's beloved human creatures lost the plot!
And God looked at his beloved human creatures and
wondered:

What was I thinking of?

*My beloved people have eyes –
but they do not see.*

*My beloved people have ears –
but they do not hear.*

SILENCE

For the Conservation of Natural Resources

Almighty God, in giving us dominion over things on earth, you made us fellow workers in your creation: Give us wisdom and reverence so to use the resources of nature, that no one may suffer from our abuse of them, and that generations yet to come may continue to praise you for your bounty; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

Music Insert, This is God's world

SILENCE

A Reading from the Book of Job [38:1-11, 16-18]

Then the Lord answered Job out of the whirlwind: "Who is this that darkens counsel by words without knowledge? Gird up your loins like a man, I will question you, and you shall declare to me.

"Where were you when I laid the foundation of the earth? Tell me, if you have understanding. Who determined its measurements—surely you know! Or who stretched the line upon it? On what were its bases sunk, or who laid its cornerstone when the morning stars sang together and all the heavenly beings shouted for joy? "Or who shut in the sea with doors when it burst out from the womb?— when I made the clouds its garment, and thick darkness its swaddling band, and prescribed bounds for it, and set bars and doors, and said, 'Thus far shall you come, and no farther, and here shall your proud waves be stopped'? "Have you entered into the springs of the sea, or walked in the recesses of the deep? Have the gates of death been revealed to you, or have you seen the gates of deep darkness? Have you comprehended the expanse of the earth? Declare, if you know all this.

SILENCE

For Knowledge of God's Creation

Almighty and everlasting God, you made the universe with all its marvelous order, its atoms, worlds, and galaxies, and the infinite complexity of living creatures: Grant that, as we probe the mysteries of your creation, we may come to know you more truly, and more surely fulfill our role in your eternal purpose; in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen*

Music Insert, This is God's world

SILENCE

Pray for the people whose daily sustenance depends on the Gulf of Mexico. *Silence*

*O Lord, send forth your Spirit and renew the
face of the earth.*

Pray for the creatures of the sea and the birds of the air whose daily sustenance depends on the Gulf of Mexico. *Silence*

*O Lord, send forth your Spirit and renew the
face of the earth.*

Pray for those who are working to stop the flow of oil into the Gulf of Mexico. *Silence*

O Lord, send forth your Spirit and renew the face of the earth.

Pray for those who are working to reclaim the water of the Gulf of Mexico and the wet lands and marshes in surrounding areas. *Silence*

O Lord, send forth your Spirit and renew the face of the earth.

Pray for all peoples, including ourselves, that we may take seriously our responsibilities for God's great gift, the planet Earth, all its resources and all its peoples. *Silence*

O Lord, send forth your Spirit and renew the face of the earth.

SILENCE

For the Future of the Human Race

O God our heavenly Father, you have blessed us and given us dominion over all the earth: Increase our reverence before the mystery of life; and give us new insight into your purposes for the human race, and new wisdom and determination in making provision for its future in accordance with your will; through Jesus Christ our Lord. ***Amen.***

Music Insert, This is God's world

SILENCE

Psalm 104:1-4; 25-31; 37 *Benedic, anima mea*

*We will pray the Psalm antiphonally
by the half verse beginning with the reader.*

- 1 Bless the LORD, O my soul; *
***O LORD my God, how excellent
is your greatness!
you are clothed with majesty and splendor.***
- 2 You wrap yourself with light as with a cloak *
and spread out the heavens like a curtain.
- 3 You lay the beams of your chambers
in the waters above; *
***you make the clouds your chariot;
you ride on the wings of the wind.***
- 4 You make the winds your messengers *
and flames of fire your servants.
- 25 O LORD, how manifold are your works! *
***in wisdom you have made them all;
the earth is full of your creatures.***

26 Yonder is the great and wide sea
with its living things too many to number, *
creatures both small and great.

28 All of them look to you *
to give them their food in due season.

29 You give it to them; they gather it; *
***you open your hand, and they are filled
with good things.***

30 You hide your face, and they are terrified; *
***you take away their breath,
and they die and return to their dust.***

31 You send forth your Spirit, and they are created; *
and so you renew the face of the earth.

37 Bless the LORD, O my soul. *
Hallelujah!

SILENCE

For the Harvest of Lands and Waters

O gracious Father, who opens your hand and fills all things living with plenteousness: Bless the lands and waters, and multiply the harvests of the world; let your Spirit go forth, that it may renew the face of the earth; show your loving-kindness, that our land may give her increase; and save us from selfish use of what you give, that men and women everywhere may give you thanks; through Christ our Lord. ***Amen.***

Music Insert, This is God's world

SILENCE

None of us are free from the responsibility of stewardship of the earth. All of us have made decisions that negatively impact the health of our earth – the cars we drive, the packages we throw away, food we consume. Let us now kneel together in silence, confessing in our hearts those times we have chosen to do damage to our world and then join with each other in a public confession of our sin against Creation.

SILENCE

***O God, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is,
seen and unseen:
You place us in your creation, and you command us
to care for it.
Your works declare glory and splendor, and you call
us to praise and reverence.
Where we have degraded or destroyed earth's
bounty, forgive us.***

Where we have taken beauty and majesty for granted, have mercy upon us.

Where we have become estranged from the creatures with whom we share this planet, grant us your peace.

Renew us in the waters of baptism, refresh us with the winds of your spirit, and sustain us with the bread of life.

In the name of Jesus Christ, and for the sake of the new creation, we pray. Amen.

THE PEACE

We are creatures of God, created in God's Image. We are joined by the common bond of living together on this earth. We are called to protect and preserve life.

Let us then pursue the things that make for peace, that build up and sustain the common life.

The Peace of the Lord be always with you.

And also with you.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

As our Savior Christ has taught us, we now pray.

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your Name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us in the time of trial, and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and for ever. Amen.

THE BLESSING AND DISMISSAL

Blest be all creation

And all that has life

Blest be the earth

May it uplift our bed tonight

Blest be the fire

May it glow in us tonight

Blest be the water

May it bathe our being tonight

Blest be the air

May it make our night breath sweet.

And the blessing of God – our Creator – the Father, our Redeemer – the Son, and our Sustainer – the Holy Spirit, be with us and remain with us now and forever. **Amen.**

Music Insert, Listen to the word

Go in peace, strengthened to sustain life and preserve our world, trusting in the power of the Creator to be with you.

Thanks be to God.



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