LITANY FOR CREATION AND CALL TO WORSHIP

- to be used in an outdoor worship gathering  
- for two voices  
- written by David Schelhaas, 2014  
- based on: Psalms 19, 23, 104, 118; Song of Solomon 2; Matthew 6; Job 39; Habakkuk 2

Speaker 1: This is the day that the Lord has made,
Speaker 2: let us rejoice and be glad in it.
Speaker 1: The heavens declare the glory of God--
Speaker 2: not in words but in a glorious technicolor light show,  
- every day shouts in wordless language that God, Almighty God, made it all.
Speaker 1: “Morning has broken, like the first morning,  
- blackbird has spoken, like the first bird.  
- Praise for the singing, praise for the morning,  
- praise for them springing, fresh from above.” (Eleanor Farjeon)
Speaker 2: Blackbird has spoken and the voice of the turtle dove is heard in the land.
Speaker 1: Look at the birds of the heaven, Jesus says in his Sermon,  
- take a lesson from them.
Speaker 2: Consider the stork, God says to Job.  
- When she spreads her feathers to run, she laughs at horse and rider.
Speaker 1: One of our old confessions tells us that  
- “the universe lies before our eyes like a beautiful book  
- in which all creatures, great and small, are as letters  
- to make us ponder the invisible things of God” (Belgic Confession).
Speaker 2: Jesus says, “Consider the lilies” to make us ponder the invisible things of God--  
- his providential care and his love of beautiful things.
Speaker 1: When Jesus walked the earth,  
Speaker 2: he walked the earth!  
Speaker 1: His feet were dirty with the dust of the earth.  
- His sermon illustrations were about flowers and trees and seeds  
- and vineyards and birds and fish and sheep and goats and pigs.
Continued

Speaker 2: The Psalmist lies down in green pastures beside still waters and he finds peace.
Speaker 1: He imagines God dressed up in sunshine with all heaven stretched out for his tent.
Speaker 2: He imagines God laughing as his pet dragon, the leviathan, frolics in the sea.
Speaker 1: And he exclaims, “What a wildly wonderful world, God!
The glory of the Lord, let it last forever.”
Speaker 2: We are gathered here this morning, on this green pasture with the tent of the sky stretched above us,
to worship the creator of the universe.
Speaker 1: The Lord is in his holy temple
Speaker 2: and that temple is the whole blooming creation.
Speaker 1: The Lord is in his holy temple,
Speaker 2: let all the earth keep silence before him.
Speaker 1: Let’s say it together:
Congregation: The Lord is in his holy temple, let all the earth keep silence before him.
(moment of silence)