

CREATION CARE

liturgies, calls to worship, & responsive readings

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.

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prayers

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)