

# SERVICE FOR OUTDOOR WORSHIP

- by *Rebecca De Vries*



Christian Reformed Church  
Worship  
Ministries



CALVIN INSTITUTE OF  
CHRISTIAN WORSHIP



## A Service for Outdoor Worship

on the theme of God the Creator  
and We, His people, Earth's Stewards

## God Gathers Us for Worship

### Welcome

### Creation Litany 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.

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**

**\*Opening Hymn:** *“O Worship the King”* LUYH 2:1-3

**\*God Greet Us and We Greet Each Other**

**\*Songs of Praise:** *“All Things Bright and Beautiful”* LUYH 20

## **We Are Renewed in God’s Grace**

### **Call to Confession**

Made in God’s image  
to live in loving communion with our Maker,  
we are appointed earthkeepers and caretakers  
to tend the earth, enjoy it,  
and love our neighbors.  
God uses our skills  
for the unfolding  
and well-being of his world  
so that creation  
and all who live in it may flourish.

**Yet often we neglect our task.**

**Recalling our task leads us to confess our sin  
and to yearn for God’s forgiveness.**

*-from Our World Belongs to God, st 10 © The Worship Sourcebook Edition Two*

**Prayer of Confession:** *“Perdon, Senor/Forgive Us, Lord”* LUYH 642

### **Assurance of Pardon**

“For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son,  
that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.  
For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world,  
but to save the world through him.”

*-John 3:16, NIV*

**Song of Response:** *“You Are Worthy”* PsH 232

## God Speaks to Us Through His Word

**Children's Message:** "What a wildly wonderful world, God!" (Psalm 104)

Consider bringing some of the following to celebrate the diversity of God's creation: vegetables, fruits, and flowers in a variety of colors and textures; images of rivers, mountains, fields, desserts; images of animals, insects and people from around the world

**Songs:** "Taste and See" LUYH 817 (refrain only)  
"He's Got the Whole World" LUYH 26

### Prayer for Illumination

**Scripture:** Selections from Psalm 8, 104, 139, Job 38

**Message:** "Letters to Make Us Ponder the Invisible Things of God."

**\*Song of Response:** "Creation Sings the Father's Song"  
Keith and Kristyn Getty and Stuart Townsend © 2008 Thankyou Music

## We Offer Our Gifts and Our Prayers

### Offering Prayer

#### Offering

### Prayer for the Church and the World

Sing: "Send Us Your Spirit" LUYH 228 (refrain only)  
*Come, Lord Jesus, send us your spirit,  
renew the face of the earth. (repeat)*

God of beauty and of justice,  
we pray for the earth—  
for restoration of soil, air, and water.

*Come, Lord Jesus, send us your spirit,  
renew the face of the earth. (repeat)*

We pray for all people you have created—  
for restoration of dignity and hope.

*Come, Lord Jesus, send us your spirit,*

*renew the face of the earth. (repeat)*

We pray for our nation and community—  
for restoration of our sense of responsibility in service.

*Come, Lord Jesus, send us your spirit,  
renew the face of the earth. (repeat)*

We pray even for ourselves—  
for restoration of our resolve to love you and the world you made.  
Through Christ, our Lord. **Amen.**

*Come, Lord Jesus, send us your spirit,  
renew the face of the earth. (repeat)*

## **We Are Sent with God's Blessing**

**\*Charge and Benediction**

**\*Song:** "Praise God From Whom All Blessings Flow" LUYH 965

**Find more creation care worship resources at [justice.crcna.org/worship](https://justice.crcna.org/worship)**