

reader three: Give us hearts to understand that to destroy earth's music is to create confusion; that to wreck her appearance is to blind us to beauty; that to pollute her fragrance is to make a house of stench; that as we care for her she will care for us.



"Love God's creation..."

Closing Reflection

leader: Love all God's creation,
the whole and every grain of sand in it.

all: Love every leaf,
every ray of God's light.
Love the animals, love the plants,
love everything.

leader: If you love everything,
you will perceive
the Divine Mystery in things.

all: Once you perceive it,
you will begin to comprehend it
better everyday.

leader: And you will come at last
to love the whole world
with an all-embracing love.

—F. Dostoevski

Closing Prayer

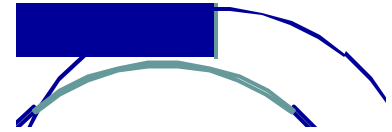
leader: May the Holy Spirit guide us as we seek to heal and nurture the earth, and all of its creatures, to live in the midst of creation, and to love one another as brothers and sisters with all life.

And may we travel from this moment forward in the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, in an awareness of our bonds to one another and to the earth.

-Anon.



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earth week

a prayer service



*"...there is no place where
God is not.
God is there in
a thousand wonders..."
-Charles Haddon Spurgeon*



earth week

Please ask three staff members to read the parts. You may want to augment the atmosphere by putting a plant or flowers on a table or perhaps playing nature sounds softly while the liturgy takes place.

introduction

reader one: This week, people around the world are celebrating Earth Day and Earth Week.

reader two: The prayers that we make today ask not for the hands to clean up the mess we are in (God has already given us those), but rather for the wisdom to let us let nature be our teacher and for the courage to do the right thing.



scripture reading: Job 12:7-8

reader three: A Reading from the Book of Job.

reader one: Now ask the beasts and they will teach you,

reader two: Ask the birds of the air and they will teach you,

reader three: Or speak to the earth, and it will teach you,

reader one: And the fish of the sea, and they will teach you,

all readers: of the Glory of God.

reader two: The Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.



reflection

reader two: Let us pray,

reader three: Let us be wise habitants of the earth, so that we can learn strength from the storm,

reader one: patience from the pines,

reader two: warmth from the sun,

reader three: joy from a mountain stream,

reader one: peacefulness from the ocean waves,

reader two: and hope from a spring wildflower.

reader three: Let us reflect upon an aspect of nature: a flower, a bird, an animal, a scene. What can we learn from this? What can we do to heal the earth? (pause for reflection)

reader one: Loving God, we entreat You on behalf of the endangered species of Your animal creation. We ask Your protection for the rare and wonderful creatures which face extinction and whose kind may never again be seen upon the earth. Help us to know before it is too late that in destroying them we diminish the beauty of Your handiwork, the fullness of Your world, the sanctity of all life, and, most of all, ourselves; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

reader two: Great Spirit, give us hearts to understand; never to take from Creation's beauty more than we can give; never to destroy what is only for the furtherance of greed;

never to deny to give our hands for the building of earth's beauty; never to take from her what we cannot use.



Earth Day - Every Day

--Richard Newman