ALL CREATION SINGS!
Worship Resources for Earth Day
Scripture texts

Psalm 148 “Let all creation praise God’s name”
Isaiah 40:12-31 “To whom will you compare me?”
Colossians 1:15-23 “In him, all things were created”
Revelation 4:9-11 “You are worthy, Lord our God”

Call to Worship 1

Praise, abundant praise,
flowing like a mighty stream,
chanted by a chorus of thousands,
echoing from mountain to shoreline.

Praise God forever and ever.
Glory, God’s glory,
shining like the noonday sun,
sparkling like dew on delicate flowers,
sometimes spoken, forever sung.
Sing praise, sing glory to God!

Call to Worship 2
(inspired by Psalm 98)

We gather to worship the One
who crafted creation out of chaos,
our cries of joy
join the anthems of the universe.
We gather to lift our praise
to the God who gives us voice,
we bring the songs
which have echoed in our hearts all week long.
We gather as the children of God,
our joy unbroken in God’s love.

Young and old,
tone deaf and perfect-pitched,
lift the new, new songs of faith.

Opening Prayer

O Divine Voice,
You sing,
and the universe comes into being;
O Divine Breath,
You breathe,
and all things spring to life;
O Divine Word,  
You call,  
and creation is sustained;  
O Divine Flesh,  
You are born among us,  
and the Creator is clothed in creation;  
O Divine Spirit,  
You contain all that has been formed;  
O Divine Life,  
You are the pulse of all that is.

And so, in amazement and awe,  
in wonder and celebration  
we marvel at this mystery:  
In you,  
all things live and move and have being,  
In all things,  
you live and move and express your Divine artistry;  
And so we join with creation  
in the eternal song of worship and wonder….³

**Intergenerational Litany**  
*(inspired by Psalm 148)*

Come, praise God, all creation!  
You in the heavens, angels above—  
**praise God!**  
Sun, moon, and stars in the sky—  
**praise God!**  
Dolphins and whales, oysters and jellyfish—  
**praise God!**  
Thunder and lightning, snow and rain—  
**praise God!**  
Mountains and hills, desert and prairie—  
**praise God!**  
Fruit trees and cedars, flowers and weeds—  
**praise God!**  
Queens and presidents, prime ministers and judges—  
**praise God!**  
Women and men, boys and girls—  
**praise God!**  
Let everything praise God’s name!  
For God alone is worthy of praise!  
God’s glory shines over earth and heaven.

**Psalm of Celebration**  
*(in the vein of Psalm 148)*

Hallelujah!  
Sing praise to God, everywhere and everything!  
Let praise fill the whole cosmos!  
**Praise God, all races and nations on earth.**  
**Praise God, all children of the distant stars.**

Praise God, sun, moon and the planets.  
Sing praise, suns, solar winds and comets.  
**Praise God, super-nova and spiral nebula.**  
Sing praise, black holes and cosmic mysteries.

Praise God, beaver, elk and black bear.  
Sing praise, sparrows, ducks and Canada geese.  
**Praise God, maple trees, cedars and mountain ash.**  
**Sing praise, willows, ferns and prickly rose.**

Praise God, jumbo jet and space shuttle.  
Sing praise, pilot, navigator and astronaut.  
**Praise God, farmer, baker and supermarket cashier.**  
**Sing praise, midwives, doctors and pharmacists.**

Praise God, all microscopic wonders.  
Sing praise, cells, chromosomes and genes.  
**Praise God, atoms, electrons and quarks.**  
**Sing praise, microchips and microsurgery**

Praise God, Chief Justice, indigenous elder,  
and Prime Minister.
Sing praise, painter, musician and comedian.
Praise God, synagogues, mosques and cathedrals.
Sing praise, rabbi, pastor and imam.

Let everything praise the goodness of the Creator, for God alone can be utterly trusted.
God, our God, is worthy of love and adoration.
Sing praise, everything and everywhere!
Hallelujah!

Litany of Creation (inspired by Genesis 1)

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 flowed 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 they saw that it was very good.

Children’s Feature

After the children have gathered, ask them, “How do we praise God in worship?” (Listen to and acknowledge their answers.) “How do we praise God in our everyday lives, at home and at school? (Listen to and acknowledge their answers.)

Our Scripture this morning has all heaven and earth praising God – the sun and moon, the waters and mountains, the creeping things and flying animals and the cows all praise God.

Show the kids an insect and/or a worm and a bird’s nest OR photos of different animals. Give the children time to see your items and ask: How can bug or a worm praise God? How can a bird praise God?

They praise God by doing what God created them to do, by moving in the dirt or crawling on the rocks, by flying in the air, by building nests, singing, laying eggs. All of the animals praise God by doing what God created them to do. And when we do what God created us to do – that glorifies God. God created us to love and care for each other and the animals and their homes. When we do that – we are praising God.

Prayer: God, we join with the sun and moon, the waters and mountains and all the animals that you created in praising you. Help us to do what you created us to do, to love and care for each other and for all the creatures of the earth so that our lives will glorify you. In Jesus’ name we pray, Amen.
All-Age Story: The Song of Creation

In the darkness, something was happening. A voice had begun to sing. It was very far away and Digory found it hard to decide from what direction it was coming. There were no words. There was hardly even a tune. But it was, beyond comparison, the most beautiful noise he had ever heard.

The voice was suddenly joined by other voices; more voices than you could possibly count. They were in harmony with it, but far higher up the scale; cold, tingling, silvery voices. And all at once the blackness overhead was blazing with stars. One moment there had been nothing but darkness; next moment a thousand, thousand points of light leaped out. If you had seen and heard it, as Digory did, you would have felt quite certain that it was the stars themselves which were singing, and that it was the First Voice, the deep one, which had made them appear and made them sing.

And now something else was happening. Far away, and down near the horizon, the sky began to turn grey. It changed from white to pink and from pink to gold. The voice rose and rose, till all the air was shaking with it. And just as it swelled to the mightiest and most glorious sound it had yet produced, the sun arose.

Digory had never seen such a sun. You could imagine that it laughed for joy as it came up. And as its beams shot across the land the travelers could see for the first time what sort of place they were in. It was a valley through which a broad, swift river wound its way, flowing eastward towards the sun. There was not a tree, not a bush, not a blade of grass to be seen. The earth was of many colours: they were fresh, hot, and vivid. They made you feel excited; until you saw the Singer himself, and then you forgot everything else.

It was a Lion. Huge, shaggy, and bright, it stood facing the risen sun, pacing to and fro about that empty land. And now it began to sing a new song. It was softer and more lilting than the song by which it had called up the stars and the sun; a gentle, rippling music. And as it walked and sang the valley grew green with grass. It spread out from the Lion like a pool. It ran up the sides of the little hills like a wave. Soon there were other things besides grass – patches of rougher and more bristling green appeared in the valley – little, spiky things that threw out dozens of arms and grew larger at the rate of about an inch every two seconds. When they were nearly as tall as Digory, he saw what they were. “Trees!” he exclaimed.

There was so much to watch and listen to. A little way off, along the river bank, willows were growing. On the other side, tangles of flowering currant, lilac, wild rose, and rhododendron.

And now the song had once more changed. It was more like what we should call a tune, but it was also far wilder.

Can you imagine a stretch of grassy land bubbling like water in a pot? For that is really the best description of what was happening. In all directions it was swelling in humps. And the humps moved and swelled till they burst. And from each hump there came a different kind of animal. The dogs came out, barking the moment their heads were free. The frogs, who all came up near the river, went straight into it with a plop-plop and a loud croaking. The panthers and leopards sat down at once to wash the loose earth off their hind quarters and then stood up against the trees to sharpen their front claws. Showers of birds came out of the trees. Butterflies fluttered. Bees got to work on the flowers as if they hadn’t a second to lose. But the greatest moment of all was when the biggest hump broke like a small earthquake and out came an elephant. And now you could hardly hear the song of the Lion; there was so much cawing, cooing, crowing, braying, neighing, baying, barking, lowing, bleating, and trumpeting.
The Lion opened his mouth, but no sound came from it; he was breathing out, a long, warm breath; it seemed to sway all the beasts as the wind sways a line of trees.

And then the deepest, wildest voice the children had ever heard was saying: “Narnia, Narnia, Narnia, awake. Love. Think. Speak.” 7

Offering Prayer

We bless you, God of all creation!
It is through your goodness that we have these gifts to share.
Receive our offerings.
Use them to your glory, in the service of your creation.

Prayer of Confession and Intercession

God of the universe,
We thank You for Your many good gifts: for the beauty of Creation and its rich and varied fruits, for clean water and fresh air, for food and shelter, animals and plants.

Forgive us for the times we have taken the earth’s resources for granted and wasted what You have given us.
Transform our hearts and minds so that we would learn to care and share, to touch the earth with gentleness and with love, respecting all living things.

We pray for all those who suffer because of our waste, greed and indifference. And we pray that the day would come when everyone has enough food and clean water. Help us to respect the rights of all people and all species and help us to willingly share your gifts today and always. Amen. 8

Prayer of Commitment
(important by Colossians 1: 15-20)

O Christ,
your cross speaks both to us and to our world.

In your dying for us You accepted the pain and hurt of the whole of creation.

The arms of your cross stretch out across the broken world in reconciliation.

You have made peace with us. Help us to make peace with you by sharing in your reconciling work.

May we recognize your spirit disturbing and challenging us to care for creation and for the poor who most feel the effects of its abuse.

O Christ, the whole of creation groans. Set us free and make us whole. Amen. 9

Affirmation of Faith

We believe that God creates all things, renews all things, and celebrates all things.

We believe Earth is a sanctuary, a sacred planet filled with God’s presence, a home for us to share with our kin.

We believe that God became flesh and blood, became a part of Earth, a human being called Jesus Christ, who lived and breathed and spoke among us, suffered and died on a cross, for all human beings and for all creation.

We believe that the risen Jesus is the Christ at the core of creation reconciling all things to God, renewing all creation, and filling the universe.

We believe the Spirit renews life in creation groans in empathy with a suffering creation, and waits with us for the rebirth of creation.

We believe that with Christ we will rise and with Christ we will celebrate a new creation. 10

Prayer at the Table

The earth is the Lord’s and everything in it, and the Lord’s glory covers the earth as the waters over the sea. The trees of the field clap their hands, the birds of the air sing songs of praise And if we should fail to express our worship, even the rocks and stones would cry out!
And so, we lift up our hearts, and we lift up our voices and we offer thanksgiving and adoration to You, the Creator of all.

Blessed are you, Sovereign of the Universe, for from seeds sown into the earth you have given us the gift of bread to feed and nourish us. And at Jesus’ last meal with his friends, before facing the cross, Our Lord took bread, blessed it and broke it.

Then he passed it among them saying:
This is my body, broken for you.
Take and eat, and do this to remember me.
(The bread is broken in the sight of the people.)

Blessed are you, Sovereign of the Universe, for from grapes which grow ripe and sweet on the vine, you have given us the gift of wine to refresh and heal us. And at Jesus’ last meal with his friends before facing the cross, Our Lord took the cup of wine and blessed it.

Then he passed it among them saying:
This is my blood shed for you.
Take and drink, and do this to remember me.
(The cup of wine is held up in the sight of the people.)

And now we come to your table again, Jesus, Mindful of how you laid your life down, so that we and creation could be born anew;

Mindful of how you took your life up again, so that we and creation could be filled with the life abundant; Mindful that we cannot earn or purchase this privilege, but that it is your grace which beckons us, and your grace which ensures that all creation may be one and whole.

May your Spirit work in these fruits of earth, so that they may become for us a sharing in Christ’s body and blood. May your Spirit work in we, who are children of earth, so that we may be transformed into Christ’s body, carrying his life, his care, and his salvation to all creation. Amen.11

Commission & Benediction

Go forth singing God’s praises, remembering God’s promises and blessings. Joyfully give back to the world the love you have received, believing that God loves all creation and abides with us.12

Song suggestions

Go to our Earth Day resource page Songs Celebrating Creation for a list of song suggestions: www.foodgrainsbank.ca/songs-celebrating-creation
In Somalia’s Sanaag and Sahel regions, rural people are struggling.

A combination of factors is making it hard for them to be successful in growing crops and looking after their herds. One of the biggest challenges is longer, more intense droughts and erratic rains due to climate change.

With few options, many lose their herds. They regularly experience hunger.

You can be part of the solution! Your donation to the Foodgrains Bank’s Climate Fund will enable 420 households in Somalia to increase their food security through improved agriculture production and practices to help them adapt to a changing climate.

The project involves farmer field schools to train farmers on drip irrigation, kitchen gardening and conservation agriculture, a method of agriculture that minimizes soil disturbance through reduced or no tillage; uses organic mulch cover to protect the soil and preserve moisture; and promotes diversified crop rotations and inter-cropping. There are also self-help groups to help women save money for their families.

You or your church can be part of this effort by contributing to the Climate Fund. In addition to finding ways to reduce your carbon footprint, you can track your carbon use and donate based on your calculation. Consider tracking your carbon using one of two ways:

**Carbon Tithe**

Encourage members of your congregation to give 1 to 10 cents for each kilometre driven to support efforts to end climate disruption and build a sustainable future. All of those participating will mark their start and end mileage in their vehicles each quarter. Then they will meet to calculate their personal carbon tithe, make their contribution, and decide where the funds raised will be donated. We suggest 50% be donated to the Climate Fund and 50% to community and congregational initiatives addressing climate change.

**Footprint Contribution**

During the week of Earth Day, have members of your congregation or faith community track their ecological footprint and make a contribution to the Climate Fund or community-based environmental initiative ($5 or $10 per global hectare) on Earth Day or the designated worship service. Dedicate the contribution with a prayer suggested in this resource.

Learn about calculating your footprint at www.footprintcalculator.org

Please visit www.foodgrainsbank.ca/climate-fund for a sample carbon calculator, and for more ideas and information.
We protect what we love. When we realize the issue of climate change is about people and planet—both of which we love—we are motivated to take action.

Climate change is a global issue that requires a global response. People of faith can be involved by using their voice to inspire change at all levels—in our immediate circles and our faith communities. Advocacy achieves results, even if the process takes time.

**Use your voice on social media around Earth Day!**

Social media is a simple, yet significant way to advocate for those who are dealing with the effects of climate change. Canadian Foodgrains Bank and its members use social media to communicate with each other, our supporters, and Canadian decision makers, such as members of parliament and Global Affairs Canada.

Challenge people in your community of faith to use their social media platform as a voice for positive change!

**The issue**

Small-scale farmers around the world, particularly female farmers, are on the frontlines of climate change. Their ability to grow enough food for their families and communities – with extra to sell – has become ever more challenging in an unpredictable climate.

Among women in the least developed countries who work, 79 percent report agriculture as their primary source of income. Many of them go hungry themselves and see their families go hungry.

While it is important we continue to prevent further increase in global average temperature, millions of people around the world are already living through the impacts of climate change and need support to adapt.

**Call on Catherine McKenna, Canada’s Minister of Environment and Climate Change, to announce greater support to help farmers, especially women farmers, around the world adapt to the effects of climate change.**

Support for small-scale farmers in developing countries that enables them to adapt to climate change has multiple benefits, including reducing the number of people who are hungry around the world, providing more secure livelihoods, and creating greater gender equality.

People need this support now more than ever.

**Sample tweets**

@cathmckenna women farmers are vulnerable to climate change and they need your help to respond. Please increase support for women farmers around the world! (tag @yourMP) #EarthDay2018 @Foodgrains

This #EarthDay2018 I want Canada to do more to address climate change, both here and around the world @cathmckenna (tag @yourMP) @Foodgrains
Sample Facebook post

Women farmers around the world are most vulnerable to the effects of climate change and need our support! This #EarthDay2018, I urge Catherine McKenna, Canada’s Minister of Environment and Climate Change, to increase our support to help women farmers overseas adapt to the effects of climate change.

Take the next step with your faith community!

Download our Harvest of Letters resource to gather letters of support for Canada’s international assistance: www.foodgrainsbank.ca/letters

Sources

*All Creation Sings!* was written and compiled by Christine Longhurst for the Canadian Foodgrains Bank. Our thanks to the following individuals or organizations who contributed prayers or readings:

2. Call to Worship 2 was written by Thom Shuman and posted on Lectionary Liturgies. www.lectionaryliturgies.blogspot.ca
3. Opening Prayer was adapted from a prayer by John de Laar, in “A Liturgy of Creation and Communion” and posted on Sacredise.com. www.sacredise.com
4. Psalm of Celebration was adapted from a litany written by Bruce Prewer and posted on Bruce Prewer’s Homepage. www.bruceprewer.com
6. Children’s Feature was written by Rev. Carol Devine, and posted on Creation Justice Ministries website. www.creationjustice.org/creatures.html
7. All-Age Story: The Song of Creation was excerpted from C.S. Lewis’s *The Magician’s Nephew* in *Chronicles of Narnia* (chapters 7-8). The Chronicles of Narnia series is published by HarperCollins.
8. Prayer of Confession and Intercession was written by Fiona Murdoch, Eco-Congregation Ireland and posted on Praying Nature. www.praying-nature.com/site_pages.php?section=Eco-Prayers&category_ref=63
10. Affirmation of Faith comes from the Web of Creation website. www.webofcreation.org/SeasonofCreation/universe.html
11. Prayer at the Table was written by John van de Laar, in “A Liturgy of Creation and Communion” and posted on Sacredise.com www.sacredise.com