

European Christian Environmental Network (ECEN)

Europäisches christliches Umweltnetzwerk (ECEN)

Réseau écologique chrétien européen (ECEN)



Choose Life

*An anthology of liturgical material on climate change from the UK
for the Creation Time 2008
from September 1 to the second Sunday of October*

*This day I call heaven and earth as witnesses against you
that I have set before you life and death, blessings and curses.
Now choose life, so that you and your children may live
and that you may love the Lord your God,
listen to his voice, and hold fast to him.
For the Lord is your life,
and he will give you many years in the land.*

Deuteronomy 30,19-20

Edited by Roddy Hamilton, Ruth Jarman, Robin Morrison and Eleanor Todd
with Michael Davidson and Ruth Bell

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Introduction

Every year the European Christian Environmental Network (ECEN) offers to the churches some liturgical material on themes related to God's creation for use during the Creation Time in September/October. In 2007 we deviated from this tradition. In view of the Third European Ecumenical Assembly (EEA3) which was held from 4-9 September 2007 in Sibiu, ECEN prepared, in line with previously published liturgical materials, a broader publication "Time for God's Creation." The aim of this publication was to offer a collection of texts providing a coherent argumentation supporting Time for Creation as a part of the liturgical life of churches in Europe.

The EEA3 in Sibiu was a significant moment in this effort. The Assembly fully endorsed the proposal for Time for Creation. In the final Message the Assembly participants expressed the need for protection of God's Creation in the following words: "Concerned about God's creation, we pray for a greater sensitivity and respect for its wonderful diversity. We work against its shameless exploitation, from which the 'whole creation awaits its redemption' (Rom 8:22), and we commit ourselves to working for reconciliation between humanity and nature". These words were then followed by Recommendation Ten: "We recommend that the period from the 1st September to the 4th of October be dedicated to prayer for the protection of Creation and the promotion of sustainable lifestyles that reverse our contribution to climate change".

Following the previous ECEN tradition, as well as reporting the results of the EEA3, ECEN offers to its members, friends and to a wider public a new collection of liturgical material for 2008. The title "Choose life" is related to the theme of the 7th ECEN Assembly which will take place from 24-28 September 2008 in Milan (Italy) on the theme "The real challenge of climate change". The biblical approach to the Assembly theme is supported by the passage from Deuteronomy 30,19. Thinking about the challenges of climate change we have to face today, the biblical parallel urging us to *choose life* is one which is appealing also in our modern era. The impact of climate change urges us to take this question seriously.

Time for Creation 2008 is also a moment to hold in our memories our dear colleague and friend Prof. Lukas Vischer. For him honouring and celebrating Time for Creation was one of the crucial activities of ECEN. The collection "Choose life" is dedicated to him and to his ceaseless efforts to intensify work on the protection of Creation inside the European churches. It is our hope that this material will contribute to the continuation of his work.

The collection of liturgical material for 2008 is a collective work. Many thanks to all who contributed to it. A special "thank you" to Eleanor Todd for her efforts in collecting the material.

It is the hope of all who contributed to this collection that those who will use it will also enjoy it. We will be pleased to receive any comment, reaction or simple indication that this collection has been used.

Peter Pavlovic
ECEN Secretary

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*Dedicated to the memory of **Lukas Vischer** (1926 – 2008)*

I. Gathering Prayers

◆ Choose Life

Choose a planet.
Choose a table.
Choose a meal with friends and a time to share it.

Choose an environment.
Choose a way of living.
Choose a word to speak until you can live it fully, for others.

Choose a world.
Choose a God.
Choose a means of understanding what's going on and believe in it.

Choose a colour.
Choose green. Choose blue. Choose rainbows.
Choose a shade that reflects the hope found in giving to others.

Choose a loaf.
Choose a wine.
Choose a sacrament. Don't speak about it. Just do it.

Choose a community.
Choose a faith.
Choose a place to be completely, fully, totally in love.

Choose life.
Choose God.
Choose Jesus.
Choose today.
Choose here.
Choose now.
Choose to choose.

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◆ I will light a light

A: I will light a light
in the name of the maker of light
who lit the world with stars, sun and moon
and breathed the breath of life
into all things.

B: I will light a light
in the name of the revealer of light
who brought light into the darkness
and stretched out his hands for us
giving his love to the whole world.

A: I will light a light
in the name of the inspirer of light
who lit the world from within
and fills my life with wonder
in the search for learning and wisdom.

B: We hold these lights
All : **For the Trinity of light and love**
God's presence everywhere
God's salvation for everyone
God's inspiration of all things.

A: We hold these lights
All : **For ourselves and each other,**
for our families, friends and enemies,
for our work, hopes and struggles.

B: We hold these lights
All : **For those in need and those who teach us,**
for the people, governments and churches of Europe,
for the future peace and justice of Europe.

A: We hold these lights
All : **For the whole world,**
for all things created, visible and invisible,
for individuals and communities in need.

B: We hold these lights to give thanks
All : **For water, air and soil,**
for plants, trees and animals,
for minerals and fossils.

A: We hold these lights to give thanks
All : **For knowledge, skills and ideas,**
for inventions and discoveries,
for science and the arts.

Our candles are lit and we pass this light amongst us as a sign of our commitment for the future.

All: **May our footprint on this earth be light.**
May we discover the holiness of your presence everywhere.
May we learn how to value your gifts without harm or waste.
May we enrich the flourishing of beauty in the things we make and use. Amen.

II. Prayers of Confession and Absolution

◆ How can a mortal be righteous before God?

All: How can a mortal be righteous before God?
You laid the earth's foundation
You fixed limits for the sea
You give orders to the morning
You tip over the water jars of the heavens
You hunt the prey for the lioness
You know where the mountain goat gives birth
The eagle takes flight by your wisdom.
You can do all things:
no plan of yours can be thwarted.
We have spoken of things we do not understand:
therefore we repent in dust and ashes.

Leader: Fear not, says the Lord, for I have redeemed you:
I have summoned you by name: you are mine.
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◆ Out of your energy, out of our energy

A: Your love made it possible for the first particles of matter to dance with energy, linking each other in space and time.
B: Carbon creatures came into being and learnt to walk tall, placing their feet firmly on the ground of your garden, breathing the mystery of your breath, enjoying your inspiration and reaching up to the skies.
A: As you look at us now, your carbon creatures, what can you see through our carbon emissions? Do they scratch your eyes and mar your looking?
B: Out of your energy of love, came heat and light for our warmth and growth
All: **Out of our energy production and use, comes both progress and harm.**
A: Out of your energy, came sacrifice and self giving love
All: **Out of our energy use, comes greed and self interest.**
B: Out of your energy, came creativity freedom and inspiration
All: **Out of your energy we compromise these gifts with complacency violence and stupidity.**

Lord, eyes we have, but see not.
Lord, ears we have, but hear not.
Lord, minds we have, but will not.
Lord, hearts we have, but care not.
Lord, life we have, but live not.
Lord, teach us to look with your seeing,
to hear with your hearing
to commit with your willing
to feel with your feeling
to care with your heart
to live in your love.
AMEN, AMEN, AMEN.

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III. Affirmation of Faith

◆ **We choose**

We choose a world of justice
where God's resources are cared for and shared fairly
where we conserve creation for future generations
where all people can live in peace.

We choose.

We choose God, for God is justice.

We choose a world of peace
where God's children no longer destroy each other
where everyone is treated with respect for their uniqueness
where lasting peace is built on God's love.

We choose.

We choose God, for God is peace.

We choose a world of love
where God's love is known to all the children of the Earth
where everyone can feel accepted by their brothers and sisters
where God's purpose for the world is finally revealed.

We choose.

We choose God, for God is love.

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IV. Reflections on Scripture

◆ A conversation

This is based on Job 1:1, 2:1-10 where God and Satan are in conversation. God is sitting in a chair and Satan wanders round him as if in charge. The conversation doesn't come to a conclusion but it meant to hang in the ambiguity of what will happen next. Do we hear the message and the warning?

God: Well, well, well... the wanderer returns. Where on earth have you been? More worryingly, what have you been up to?

Satan: Oh, you know... strutting around the planet, here and there. Ducking and diving; bobbing and weaving. I must say, God, you truly have excelled yourself this time. What a wonderful creation. So many colours and textures and intricate details. I love what you've done with the fiords of Norway, and the mountain ranges, who would have thought you could have invented so many shades of purple. Wonderful.

God: Well, I'm quite pleased with it myself. But I doubt you have come to pay a compliment. What have you really come here for?

Satan: Oh God, you are too cynical. Though now you mention it, I do have an idea I'd like to propose. Truly you have made a wildly wonderful world. But how good is it really? Come on God... I see a flaw in the whole thing. You have created something on a massive scale. It knits together in the most ingenious ways, but I do believe there is a crucial glitch.

God: Oh? And that would be...?

Satan: Why, the human of course. It was all very worthy of you to create a being so imaginatively in your image. Personally I feel there is a little pride in that which is really not worthy of you, a little arrogance even which will be this creation's downfall.

God: Nonsense. Look at my man Job. What do you make of him now? Still spiritual, moral, good living. Still giving me total respect. Still steering clear of evil. He passed the acid test and his integrity's intact, even though, for no good reason, you were hell bent on destroying him.

Satan: Yeah, but he's not exactly stereotypical, is he? I reckon that if you hit any human with something really nasty, something that hurts physically, they'll spend their last breath cursing you.

God: Never.

Satan: I beg to differ. Give me the human and I'll prove to you how arrogant you have been, for the humans will not only destroy themselves, they'll destroy your creation. Indeed, a person will give up beauty before they will give up power. I am sure it is so.

God: Nonsense.

Satan: And a person will give up on justice before they give up on the coffee they choose to drink.

God: I don't believe it to be so.

Satan: And a person will turn a blind eye to a changing climate before they chose a different lifestyle.

God: Do you really think humans are that shallow? What about the good they do? They are wonderfully made. When you look in their eye you see a reflection of love. When you create each one's fingerprints or whisper their name calling them into the world, they are in the image of heaven. When you fill a flower with perfume or colour, an autumn leaf with sunsets, you know their souls soar with the breath of it.

Satan: Yes, but when a person does not get what they want, they will curse you to your face. They will take the good, but not the bad. Simple fair-weather fans. Worse still, they'll deny their part in the web of creation. They will believe they stand against it, willing to fight it, as ruler, as sovereign.

God: You think so? Well have your way with them. Take the human and see if it is true. I created them with a love that is part of their every atom. They will see the truth, they will know the wonder, they will live in justice, they will share what I have given them, and they will step lightly in this world. They will not covet it, but care for it. It is how I created them. And they know their Creator.

Satan: We'll see. We'll see.

God: Yes, we shall...

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◆ The energy of Creation and Salvation

Voice A stands in the centre with B and C are far away to either side. During the conversation B and C move slowly towards A so that by the end they are side by side.

A: Excuse me, You, over there in the distance. Who are you? I can only just see you.

B: I am the energy of creation, born out of the nature of love that longs to create the Other and to give that Other – which is creation – its own beauty, creativity, potential and freedom.

A: Excuse me, You, over there in the distance. Who are you?

C: I am the energy of salvation, born of the nature of love that longs to redeem the broken beauty, the cramped creativity, the purposeless potential and fraught freedom of the Other – which is the whole of creation.

A: And what is your energy?

B: You would know it only as the light which enlightens everyone who comes into the world. The light that is both wave and particle. The light that transforms all things. The light that creates the conditions for life. The light that is the Word of Life and calls others to be creative in their co-creating.

C: You would know it only as the light that shines in the dark. The light that cannot be overcome by the dark. The light that shines from within. The light that gives light and is the Word of life. The light of Emmanuel.

A: So you are the energy and light of creation?

B: Yes.

A: And you are the energy and light of salvation?

C: Yes.

A: So how is that you two have grown so far apart and now only talk to each other from such a great distance?

B: We have been talking to each other with one voice from the very beginning.

C: It is you that have kept us apart in your doctrines, dogmas and dualisms, in your vision and values, in your aspirations and attitudes, above all in your religion and rituals.

B: For we are one and the church has separated us. Some who seek for salvation and celebrate its story in Christ turn their back on creation and its goodness. They have forgotten that, through Christ, all things came into existence.

C: Those who seek to understand and celebrate creation, turn their back on the Christ who is the beginning and the end of all things. They have forgotten that the One through whom all things are created is the One who suffers and dies to redeem, reconcile, restore and renew.

B: We are the same agency of creation, inspired by the same Spirit.

C: And of redemption.

B: And the same source of inspiration and creativity.

C: Search now in your hearts and you will find it so.

B: Open your hearts and minds and let the same Spirit speak to you who was in Jesus and in the acts of creation. There is so much waiting to be learnt and discovered by you.

C: Then you will know the truth in all its potential and beauty, close to your own creativity.

- B:** Then you will see the light and energy of all things shining in the glory of God who is creator, redeemer and inspirer.
- C:** Then perhaps you will turn and notice this light and energy wherever you look and in whatever you do.
- B:** Then perhaps you will understand what responsibility has been given to you - for all you see and all you do.
- C:** In that seeing and doing, you will come to know the source and purpose of all things.
- B:** And you will see and do things by the light and energy that has been given to you and to all things.
- C:** Then perhaps you will glimpse us together not apart.
- B:** Then perhaps you will understand and perceive all things differently.

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V. Prayers of Intercession - Psalms

◆ Ruth Jarman writes:

I'm declaring war - anyone want to join me?

The aim is to give vent to our anxiety (we are commanded to pray instead of worry) and fight the causes of climate change on a spiritual level - to use all the weapons in our armoury to fight what, on the face of it, is already a lost battle.

We are fighting the most powerful structures in the world and the most basic human nature. Of the few in our world who understand quite how terrifying the future is, only some believe we have any hope to change the entrenched situation. We need God's help here.

Our situation is too urgent to have an annual climate change "day" - so how about a climate change day of the week - Tuesday, the second day of the week when God created the sea and the sky.

We could have waves of prayer with people praying on the hour every hour to cover the whole day (I'm not saying we have to pray for a whole hour - waves have dips between them). Comments/ideas please to community-of-prayer@christian-ecology.org.uk

P.S. This idea is as well as everything else we have to do to fight this thing, not instead! This is to support our activism on the spiritual level.

◆ A prayer based on Psalm 4

"Answer me when I call to you,

O my righteous God.

Give me relief from my distress;

be merciful to me and hear my prayer."

How long, O men and women, will you turn the glory of the earth
into dangerous pollution?

How long will we love the delusion of consumerism
and seek the false gods of money and possessions?

Help us to remember that you have set apart the godly for yourself;
that you will hear us when we call to you.

In our exasperation and anxiety do not let us lose hope;
when we have quiet times in the day,
let us search our hearts and be silent.

Help us to live our lives sacrificially and to trust in the Lord.

Many are asking "What is the point? The earth is finished. Who can save us now?"

"Let the light of your face shine upon us, O Lord.

You have filled my heart with greater joy
than when their grain and new wine abound.

I will lie down and sleep in peace,
for you alone, O Lord,
make me dwell in safety."

◆ **A prayer based on Psalm 24**

"The earth is the Lord's, and everything in it,
the world, and all who live in it;
for he founded it upon the seas
and established it upon the waters."
Lord, your world is in danger. The enemy is hiding behind vested interests and sceptics,
waiting to plunder and rape your earth.
We cry to you, Lord, protect your creation,
defend the work of your hands.
Save our generation from our addiction to fossil fuels.
Wash our hands of their clutch on dirty energy,
clean our hearts of our desire for more and more.
Turn our souls away from materialism
and our desires from taking and taking from your sacred, limited world.
Give us a vision of the blessings we will receive
if we turn away from idolatry of the economy and bow to wisdom and truth.
Let man and woman-kind see that true happiness
rests in enjoying your earth as you intended,
not according to the lies of the enemy.
Show us that a kinder and simpler lifestyle
will allow us to see your glory more clearly.
Let your glory of the King of glory shine through your kingdom.
"Lift up your heads, O you gates;
lift them up, you ancient doors,
that the King of glory may come in.
Who is he, this King of glory?
The Lord Almighty -
he is the King of glory."

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◆ **A prayer based on Psalm 28**

"To you I call, O Lord my Rock;
do not turn a deaf ear to me."
For if you remain silent,
all our efforts to defend our climate will be worthless.
Help us to stand against the culture of our times
where people speak cordially with people they meet
while living lives that will destroy the lives of people they will never meet.
Where institutions show no regard for the works of the Lord and what his hands have done,
may you tear them down and never build them up again.
Where corporations are getting fat by consuming our children's inheritance,
repay them for their deeds and their evil work
and transform them to respond to your divine calling
and regard your creation with reverence.
"Praise be to the Lord,
for he has heard my cry for mercy.
The Lord is my strength and my shield;
my heart trusts in him, and I am helped.

My heart leaps for joy
and I will give thanks to him in song.
The Lord is the strength of his people,
a fortress of salvation for his anointed one.
Save your people and bless your inheritance;
be their shepherd and carry them forever."

© Ruth Jarman 2006

◆ **A prayer based on Psalm 43**

"Why are you so downcast, O my soul?
Why so disturbed within me?"
Lord, the enemy is near, stalking our children.
Vindicate us, O God,
and plead our cause against an ungodly world system;
rescue us from deceitful and wicked powers.
You are God our stronghold.
Why have you rejected us?
Why must we go about mourning,
oppressed by the enemy that lies in wait for our sons and daughters?
Send forth your light and your truth,
let them guide us;
Let your light and your truth guide how we deal with our hopelessness,
let your light and your truth guide us to live in a way
that fights instead of feeding the enemy.
Let your light and your truth reveal the foolishness of greed and rampant consumerism
and lead the nations to and the path of life.
"Why are you so downcast, O my soul?
Why so disturbed within me?
Put your hope in God
for I will yet praise him,
my Saviour and my God."

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◆ **A prayer based on Psalm 46**

"God is our refuge and strength,
an ever present help in trouble.
Therefore we will not fear, though the earth give way
and the mountains fall into the sea,
though its waters roar and foam
and the mountains quake with their surging.
There is a river whose streams make glad the city of God,"
a source of blessing to refresh us as we fight the enemy.
Pour on us your spirit, O Lord, and equip us for battle.
Do not fail us now when we need your sustaining power.

Give us the time, Lord, to defeat climate change
before it takes your world to wrack and ruin,
give us the energy and hope we need to keep going when all seems lost,
give us the funding to do battle against rich vested interests,
give us the people with the necessary talent and wisdom that comes from you.
Be our ever present help in these troubled times.
Dispel the night of danger by your dawn of deliverance.
Where leaders stoop to feed our ever growing hunger for more and more,
open their eyes to the wisdom of simplicity,
Where governments buy our votes with cheap flights and petrol,
open their ears to the laws of nature that are screaming at us
to stop pushing their limits.
Lord, make our thirst for fossil fuels cease to the ends of the earth,
break our addiction to dirty energy,
shatter the clutch of consumerism,
quench our desire for more and more material things.
"Be still and know that I am God;
I will be exalted among the nations,
I will be exalted in the earth.
The Lord Almighty is with us;
the God of Jacob is our fortress."

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VI. Eucharist

◆ Introduction to Communion

Great Big Creator God
Baker of loaves of bread
Maker of cups of wine
Setter of tables for feasts
choose to come to our little table
and set a meal here for us.

Here with grain that comes from the ground
and grape that is grown on the vine
here among us of all ages who gather
and in the middle of your vast and wild creation
may you come to a meal with us.

And open our eyes
to the great story
of your love for creation
and your friendship through Jesus
of the birds of the air
and the feast for the world
of the lily of the valley
and the bread for all people
of the rainbow of hope
and the wine of new promise

of the wilderness of wandering
and the journey to the table
of the water that cleanses
and the community of faith
of the trees that hide sinners
and the banquet in their honour
of the stones that cry out
and the voices that proclaim grace
of the grain that is buried
and the bread that is broken
of the seed that is sown
and the wine that is shared
of the cedars that sing
and the faith that is lived
of the rock that is rolled
and the truth that is set free.

Here with grain that comes from the ground
and grape that is grown on the vine
here among us of all ages who gather
and in the middle of your vast and wild creation
may you choose to come to a meal with us.
So be it. Amen.

◆ Eucharistic Prayer

My friends,
every family sits round a table
there to share news from the day
concerns about life
stories they have heard.
I invite you now to sit round this table
to share the day
listen to concerns of the world
speak of the great family of creation
and listen to God's story.

It's a special table because it is big enough for all
it's a special table because it is made from the world:
wood and ore and holds grain and grape gifts from the world.
It's a special table because Jesus is here.

So let's share God's story.

Holy God there is no other God.
Bless the one who bears God's name.
Holy God there is no other God.
Heaven and earth and full of your glory.

Voice 1:

I remember the time of creation, of choosing colour and texture, of mountain height and valley depth. I remember how God sculpted love into it all, every nook and cranny alive with the promise of heaven. And we give thanks for it all, its richest splendour and darkest secret.

Voice 2:

I remember the parting of the water, of the choice of Moses to follow God into the wilderness, of the elements against them but the promise for them, choosing to go where God led, into a future where water flowed from rock and manna waited in the morning. We give thanks for it all, the story of exodus, of red sea, and the land of milk and honey.

Voice 3:

I remember the prophet Joel's voice calling the people of Israel to choose a new way of living, in justice with creation and each other, to care for the widow and the orphan and to know what would happen if they carried on as they were. And we give thanks for it all, the choice to hear God's longing for a new world, and to change and follow it.

Voice 4:

I remember the Baptist, who lived in the wilds and spoke of a new heaven and earth, who shouted at the world to choose new ways to live, that recognised justice and full living, who took water and blessed its use and we give thanks for it all, being born into a world renewed by our right living.

Voice 5:

I remember the table-setter Jesus, who chose to upset tables in the temple, who took bread and wine, the simplest of food, and blessed it and held it and broke it and shared it with

people like ourselves, his friends, and said, all these stories hold the key to heaven. This bread and wine speaks about a choice to make, to follow me into a world renewed by love, where all creation rejoices in God. Come and choose to eat and drink and belong to my new community, a way of living that will not let go the world, a way of loving that makes the difficult choice but the right one to stick by what is broken and bring it to new birth. Come, follow me! Come eat and drink and know I go before you.

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◆ **Thanksgiving**

An all-age prayer. During the prayer, people could hold up the appropriate colours of cloth around the worship area, the bigger the better.

God.
What a fabulous colour green is
every shade
tucked into every plant
every blade of grass
every leaf
subtly different
a million billion shades of the one colour
like touching fresh flowing water
or the smell of summer morning.

And God of Blue
what a big colour that is
stretching for a thousand acres above us
like the touch of cool
or the smell of snow.

And red God
of petal and beach tree
of rock and earth
of blood and fruit
of berry and bird
like the touch of soft warmth
and the smell of apple pie.

And God of caramel
and chocolate
and amethyst
and butterscotch
and gold
and orange
and sunset

and leaf
and beach
and earth
and grain

and skin
the touch and the smell of life.

And God of purple
rare
royal
sacred
special
deep
flowing
like the smell of ancient churches
and the touch to love.

How big is your imagination O God
how fabulous your tartan
how warm your smell
how colourful your laughter
how wildly wonderful your world.

Thanks!

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VII. Blessings

◆ **Go and choose**

Go and choose bread and wine every day
Go and choose it to renew the world
Go and choose it to live justly on our planet
Go and choose it because Jesus is found within it

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◆ **Bring peace on earth**

Bring peace on earth
reconciling dust to heaven
as Adam was created to be
and as Christ's free grace enables you. Amen.

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◆ **Two thousand acres of sky above us**

May there always be two thousand acres of sky above us.
May there always be the story of the earth beneath us.
May there always be the song of the air between us.
And may the love that shook creation from God's hand,
shake us alive,
that we may walk God's way,
now and always.

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VIII. Additional Prayers

◆ A prayer in the face of Climate Change

Jesus Christ,
tempted to turn stones to bread
in the wilderness:
teach us that when we change time
for our convenience:
night to day in our living,
patience to speed in our journeying,
winter to summer in our eating,
we change God's calendar which brings
the hatchling to the caterpillar,
the bee to the nectar,
the rains to the farmer;
to the one which brings you to the cross.

Give us grace in our simplest actions
to choose the life which breathes
in the beautiful complexity of creation,
to conquer death,
and to fit us to be Easter people. Amen

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◆ A morning prayer

Show us how to do things well today,
so that others may not suffer,
here or there,
now or in the future.
Show us how to make our contribution
as we change the way we live,
travel, make and consume, pack and unpack,
use, misuse and re use energy, heating and lighting.
Show us how to do simple things well in our home,
places of work and lifestyle choices.
Show us how to protect the world you made,
in all its diversity and goodness,
from our carbon emissions,
global warming and climate change,
rising temperatures and sea levels,
the displacement of peoples, environmental poverty,
harm and destruction.
Show us how and show us why,
so that alone and with others
our contribution will make a difference.
Amen

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◆ **An evening prayer**

Thank you for the passing day.
Forgive all that's been badly done,
for energy wasted, opportunities lost,
for things not said or not said well,
for the harm done,
unconsciously, if not deliberately,
through our lack of attention and care.
As we lift our gaze to look through your eyes
on what has passed or is to come,
give, us of your grace, another opportunity
to live well, find joy and fulfillment in all things,
show respect and care for your gifts
in all of Creation and all people.
Amen.

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◆ **A prayer for our homes**

Jesus Christ;
in changing weather, vanishing species
and impoverished neighbours
the heavens and the earth bear witness against us.
As you lit an Easter fire and cooked breakfast,
fashioning God's kingdom
from the stuff of this earth,
so when we cook and light and warm our home
make us people of your resurrection,
choosing life
through simplicity, ingenuity, and obedience. Amen.

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◆ **Doxology**

**Glory be to you, Creator, Redeemer, Sustainer,
in whom the heavens rejoice and the earth is glad,
with them we lift our song to you,
one God, now and for ever. Amen.**

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IX. A hymn

◆ Choose life

Eleanor Todd

Louis Bourgeois: Trente quatre Pseaumes: Genève

1. When Mos-es stood up - on the moun-tain Is - ra - ël's jour - ney at an
2. Here as we stand up - on our moun-tain built of the wis - dom of the
3. Here as we feast at God's own ta - ble, shar - ing His hal - lowed bread and

end, know - ing their Pro - mised Land was fra - gile, would on their
past sci - ence and cul - ture seem to pro - mise peace and pros -
wine - by whose once dy - ing, death was con - quered, trans - fig - ured

right - eous - ness de - pend: choose life, he told them, for your chil - dren,
per - i - ty to last; yet as we turn from God's cre - a - tion
dust be - came di - vine - bless, break and give air, soil and wa - ter,

cling to the God you knew be - fore; i - dols will turn the land a -
to e - co - no - mics we in - vent, earth's un - told rich - es find their
like Mos - es' peo - ple make our choice: let gen - er - a - tions praise the

gainst you: fam - ine and drought will lead to war.
lim - its: ex - tinct, pol - lut - ed, spoilt or spent.
Fa - ther. let earth be glad and heavens re - joice.

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