

### **Prayer of Invocation**

Almighty God

We recognize your presence simply by taking a deep breath. The same breath with which you separated light from dark, with which you breathed life into Creation, fills our lungs today as we take a still moment. Welcoming into our lungs that breathe which brings hope for a new day, that says you are near; we breathe seeking your life giving peace. (Leave space for people to breath)

Mighty God, we know you seek to restore all of Creation and that we, your caretakers, have not heard your voice and instead have often done more harm than good to Your Creation. The world knows greater poverty, greater famine, greater disease, greater stress because of our abuse and neglect for the beauty of Creation. In our attempts to do good we have created a cloud of hopelessness transforming the world through Global Climate Change. Help us Mighty God as we together breathe in this space to more clearly hear your call on our lives to serve all of Creation, and live into the hope of newness and life your breath brings.

### **Prayer of Confession for Global Climate Change**

We have forgotten that the world is the divine revelation of the Creator given as a gift to us as caretakers. As a gift for life, the Divine Illustrator entrusted us with the ability to plant, to nurture, to harvest and to delight in the yield of Creation.

We instead observe our world with corporate eyes. Our surroundings are resources and commodities that affect the bottom line. We see the world as something to be bought and sold, to be packaged and marketed, to be produced and consumed.

In our corporate caretaking of the world we have clouded our ability to see the Creator. We have lost connection, becoming deeply illiterate to the words of Creation and blind to the images of the Divine. The path we have created leaves a warming cloud transforming the nature of Creation.

That which produced life is barren. That which was a deep pool filled with Creation has dried. That which was a long frozen river has retreated to the tops of mountains. Global Climate Change reshapes the nature of Creation. The skies, the seas, the land, the plants, the animals, all are being affected by the changing climate of God's Creation.

As caretakers for Creation, we must respond. Our lifestyles, our habits, our decisions impact the nature of climate change, and so now Almighty God we pray for discernment, and understanding. Teach us how to see the Divine in all of Creation. Teach us ways to better care for the gift of Creation. Help us to see the responsibility in our lives, our vocations, and our worship as a path for eliminating the great cloud we as humans produce.

### **Prayer of Assurance**

Merciful Redeemer, we know Your surrounding love gives us hope of a new Creation. We know that

through Your love You have given the power of resurrection; resurrection that reaches out beyond humanity and extends to all of Creation. This power of resurrection you have placed in our hands and feet. It lies deep within our hearts and now, Creator of Life, we must not sit idly by. You have called us to be your vessels, to be beings of resurrection. And so Almighty God, we partner with You to be a blessing to all of Creation; that one day our children may play in clean rivers and streams, that crops around the world may produce enough food for all of God's children to have their share; that the oceans might again be full of Creation, a life source reflecting the Creator; that the land may provide spaces for commerce and also recreation and solitude; that life giving breaths may come from clear skies that allow the natural flow of heat to and from the Earth. Today almighty God, we lift up our prayer for resurrection, a new Creation, a hope that you continue to reveal yourself so that we may all see the Glory of your Creation.

### **Community Prayer**

The gift of Creation: the skies, the seas, the land, the creatures, all of Creation, created in wisdom; given to reveal the glory of the one who Created.

#### **Hear these words O people of God.**

Vacant space for all of light and life to pass, the skies offer space for life giving breath of the Creator to be breathed in by all of Creation. The ever present reminder that an almighty God is near, a deep breath of the surrounding sky a peaceful prayer to the One all around is now hazed by the excess of our forgotten responsibility to be a blessing. The skies, a brown glow clouded not just by needed cycles of precipitous clouds but by the growing presence of pollution, smog and carbon gases.

#### **Hear, O skies, the words of our mouths.**

Once a rich source of life, the oceans and seas danced with the constant movement of Creation. The magnificence of glaciers and icebergs, the beauty of coral reefs, the movement of ocean life reflected the beauty of God. Now the water is warming, the icebergs are melting, the coral reefs receding, fish populations over harvested, revealing an ecosystem in need of a voice. The waters a blessing of Creation, need a voice, need to be blessed and need our careful attention so that Creation's dance may continue.

#### **Hear, O seas, the words of our mouths.**

Fields for food, forests for life, terrain in which many may find home, the land creates space for life to reflect the Almighty. A space for blessing, the land offers hope of seasonal beauty in which God may be experienced by all of Creation. The beautiful green fields, thick life giving forests, are now being sacrificed as we abuse, destroy, and exploit the life breathing land. We seek balance, Creator of life, balance that will allow for all to share in the Glory of your land.

#### **Hear, O land, the words of our mouths.**

With the words of our mouths we cry for the skies, the seas, the land and all of Creation. We pray now, Almighty God, that You give us the strength to stand up for that which you have created to be a blessing. We pray for revelation, the revelation that we see You in all of Creation and seek ways in which we can, protect, preserve, and sustainably use Creation in a way that Your Glory may be seen by all.

**Hear, O Lord, the words of our mouths.**

**Amen**

Prayers and Quotes from the Green Bible that can be used as readings during a service.

We need to find God, but we cannot find him in noise or in excitement. See how nature, the trees, the flowers, the grass grow in deep silence. See how the stars, the moon, and the sun all move in silence.

--Mother Teresa (I-110)

The maternal sea is polluted, the heavens are rent, the forests are being destroyed and the desert areas are increasing. We must protect Creation. Better yet, we must embellish it, render it spiritual, transfigure it. But nothing will be done unless there is a general conversion of [people's] minds and hearts.

--Patriarch Ignatius IV of Antioch (I-111)

We give you thanks, most gracious God, for the beauty of the Earth and sky and sea: for the richness of mountains, plains, and river's for the songs of birds and the loveliness of flowers. We praise you for these good gifts and pray that we may safeguard them for our prosperity. Grant that we may continue to grow in our grateful enjoyment of your abundant Creation; to the honor and glory of your name, now and forever.

--Book of Common Prayer (I-104)