



IN PRAISE OF CREATION

The heavens declare the glory of God
And all creation is shouting for joy.

LEADER: We pause and look at the life and beauty around us on this earth given to us by our Creator. We are reminded of the presence of God in our midst and our responsibility to this earth and His creation. Blessed are You, O God for You have given us this earth and its beauty.

All: Glory to You, Source of All Being, Eternal Word, and Holy Spirit. Amen.

SONG: Canticle of The Sun – Marty Haugen - YouTube

Chorus: The heavens are telling the glory of God,
And all creation is shouting for joy!
Come, dance in the forest, come play in the field,
And sing, sing to the glory of the Lord!

Praise to the sun, the bringer of day, he carries the light of the Lord in his rays; the moon and the stars who light up the way unto your throne! **CHORUS**

Praise for the wind that blows through the trees, the seas' mighty storms, the gentlest of breeze; they blow where they will, they blow where they please to please the Lord! **CHOURS**

Praise for the rain that waters our fields, and blesses our crops so all the earth yields, from death unto life her mystery revealed springs forth in joy! **CHORUS**

Praise for the fire who gives us his light, the warmth of the sun to brighten our night; he dances with joy, his spirit so bright, he sings of you! **CHORUS**

READINGS – Genesis; Chapter one – The Story of Creation

READER 1 - In the beginning God created the universe, the earth was formless and desolate. Then God commanded, “Let there be light” – and light appeared. God was pleased and separated the light from darkness. He named the light “day” and the darkness “night.” Evening passed and morning came – that was the first day.

READER 2 – Then God commanded, “Let the water below the sky come together in one place, so that the land will appear” – and it was done. He named the land “earth” and the water which came together he named “sea.” God was pleased with what He saw. Evening passed and morning came – that was the second day.

READER 3 - God then commanded “Let the earth produce all kinds of plants, those that bear grain and those that bear fruits.” – and it was done. God was pleased with what He saw. Evening passed and morning came - that was the third day.

READER 4 – Then God commanded, “Let lights appear in the sky to separate day from night and to show the time when days, years, and religious festivals begin; they will shine in the sky to give light to the earth – and so it was done. God made the two larger lights, the sun to rule over the day and the moon to rule over the night. He also made the stars. And God was pleased with what He saw. That was the fourth day.

READER 5 – Then God commanded, “Let the waters be filled with many kinds of living beings and the air be filled with birds.” And God was pleased with what he saw. He blessed them all and told them to reproduce to increase in number. Evening passed and morning came – the fifth day.

READER 6 – The God commanded. “Let the earth produce all kinds of animal life: domestic and wild, large and small – and it was done. God made them all. He also said, “And now we will make human beings; they will be like us and resemble us. They will have power over the fish, the birds and all animals. So God created human beings, making them to be like Himself.

ALL – God created them male and female, He blessed them and said, “Have many children, so that your descendants will live over the earth and bring it under their control. I am putting you in charge. I have provided it all for you. God looked at everything He had made, and was very pleased. Evening passed and morning came – that was the sixth day.

LEADER – And so the whole universe was completed. By the seventh day God finished what He had been doing and stopped working. He blessed the seventh day and set it apart as a special day.

ALL – And that is how the universe, our universe given to us by God, was created.

PAUSE to REFLECT:

What does the earth teach me about the love of God?

How does the earth nourish me and my spiritual life?

What does the life of Saint Francis demonstrate to me about appreciation for the earth?

SCRIPTURE READING – Luke 12: 22-28

I tell you, do not worry about your life and what you will eat, or about your body and what you will wear. For life is more than food and the body more than clothing. Notice the ravens: they do not sow or reap; they have neither storehouses nor barn, yet the Father feeds them. How much more important are

you than the birds! Can any of you by worrying add a moment to your lifespan? If even the smallest things are beyond your control, why are you so anxious about the rest? Notice how the flowers grow. They do not toil or spin. But I tell you, not even Solomon in all his splendor was dressed like one of them. If God so clothes the grass in the field that grows today and is thrown into the oven tomorrow, will He not much more provide for you, O you of little faith?

PAUSE to REFLECT on the scripture reading.

DISCUSS and SHARE

SONG – Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee (YouTube)

Joyful, joyful, we adore Thee, God of glory, Lord of love;
Hearts unfold like flowers before Thee, opening to the sun above.
Melt the clouds of sin and sadness; drive the dark of doubt away;
Giver of immortal gladness, fill us with the light of day.

All Thy works of joy surround Thee, earth and heaven reflect Thy rays,
Stars and angels sing around Thee, center of unbroken praise.
Field and forest, vale and mountain, flowery meadow, flashing sea,
Singing bird and flowing fountain call us to rejoice in Thee.

Thou art giving and forgiving, ever blessing, ever blessed,
Wellspring of the joy of living, ocean depth of happy rest!
Thou art Father, Christ our Brother, all who live in love are Thine;
Teach us how to love each other, lift us to the joy divine.

Mortals, join the happy chorus, which the morning stars began;
Father love is reigning o'er us, brother love binds man to man.
Ever singing, march we onward, victors in the midst of strife,
Joyful music leads us Sunward in the triumph song of life.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

RESPONSE: Lord of Life, hear us and bless us.

LEADER:

That we will appreciate, enjoy and be inspired by the beauty of nature,
we pray;

That we will continue to be people of hope and bring hope to others in need,
we pray;

That farmers and all who work with the earth will be blessed with good planting
and growing seasons, we pray;

That we will have respect for others and all of creation around us, we pray;

That the seasons of life and birth fill our hearts and souls with gladness, we pray;

And for your own petitions....., we pray;

FINAL BLESSING:

ALL:

Blessed be Your name, O God
In the land that is plentiful
Where Your streams of abundance flow
Blessed be Your name, O God.
Every blessing You pour out
May we turn back to praise You, O God
When the sun's shining down on us
In a world, we pray is at peace.
Blessed be Your name, O God.
Blessed be Your name, O God.

