

YOUTH RESOURCES



WORLD ENVIRONMENT SUNDAY (JUNE 7th)

OR YOUTH DAY

DRAMA: GOD THE ARTIST



Characters

The narrator (should have a good strong voice and if possible stand at the microphone). The narrator reads the whole thing, the other actors mime.

God, dressed as an artist (an old shirt with paint stains)

A human being (dressed with lots of “bling”)

A tree (someone wearing something green)

The sky(wearing light blue)

A river (dark blue)

The land (brown)

Equipment

A large newsprint page, with a simple painting which must have trees, land, earth, river flowers and blue sky

This needs to be placed in front of the altar, onto a board, placed on a chair

Paints with separate paintbrushes (yellow, brown, light blue, dark blue green, black and other bright colours)

Damp cloth

Place a large cross onto the altar.

Sound effects! These can either be made by another person, or you can download the sounds from youtube at the following links.

Birds singing: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ChZTUKHCfYA>

Factory and car noise <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7wmRuvZy624>

River sounds <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AFIxMEo5xAw>

NARRATOR

In the beginning God decided to paint a truly BEAUTIFUL picture. *(God comes onto the stage dressed as an artist, as he/she mentions the various things, he can add splashes of extra colour to the picture.)*

God said “Let me start with a beautiful sky *(he paints with light blue)*, the sun *(yellow)*, the rich earth *(brown)* the flowing rivers *(dark blue)* and the wonderful trees and such beautiful flowers. And God looked at what he had painted and said “it is good!”

(sound effects of birds singin)

Now God had other things to do so he called the human to look after his painting. *(In a booming voice)* Can you come please and look after my painting?

(The human comes over and looks at the painting.)

The human said “yes of course God, this is very beautiful I will look after it for you”.

So the human looked at the painting. And he(or she) thought. Hmm, this is very beautiful, but what about me? Where will I live? Where is God now, I can't see him to ask for advice, never mind, let me just put up a nice big house for me. *(paints a big house).*

Now how will I get around? These trees seem to be getting rather in the way, I have a nice car and I need to get to places fast. I am sure God won't mind if I chop some down. *(Takes black paint and scratches out some of the trees and paints a big road.)* Ahah that is better. Those trees were making an awful lot of mess with all those leaves.

(Tree appears, and waves his branches in a tree like way)

The tree said : no, no please don't cut me down. Don't you know that I am beautiful?? I also can help you, I make shade, I hold the soil so that it doesn't wash away, I breathe in dirty carbon dioxide and breathe out clear oxygen for you to breathe. The Bible says in Revelations 22:2 “the leaves of the trees are for the healing of the nations”

But the Human didn't listen. He carried on looking at the picture. Hhmn, I like this house and this road now, but really this little car of mine won't last long. I think we need a factory to make more cars *(paints a factory).*

(Noise of factory and car sounds)

Gosh strange how when we make things we produce a lot of poisonous chemicals. I wonder what I should do with them (scratches head). Maybe I should ask God? *(looks around)*. Hhm, I can't seem to see him. I am pretty smart though. I know, let me throw them in the river, then they will wash far away and I wont need to worry about them.

(Paints black onto the river)

(RIVER APPEARS, moving like a river. River sounds are heard)

The river said: “Please please don't fill me with poisons. For you will kill the life that is within me. I give live to insects, to fish, to plants. They will die if you poison me. Don't you know the Bible in Psalm 65.9 says “the river of God is full of water?”

But the Human didn't listen, he was way too busy looking at other things to build. Hhmn, we need another factory so that we make lots of things. Wow if we have TVs we can look at programmes about birds and streams and fish! If we have cell phones we can communicate with other people on the other side of the world even if we don't know our next door neighbour! So he built another factory and then another *(paints a factory)*

But then the human said “ oops, no one told me making all these things would create so much waste.. And what do we do with all the old ones, once we have a new TV or a new Cell phone?? *(paints a big pile of rubbish on the land)*. Oh well who needs those flowers and plants growing anyway, we can see them on TV!

LAND APPEARS walking slowly and heavily

The land said *(deep voice)*, Stop stop, you are poisoning the land.! Don't you know that the plastic rubbish you throw down now will still be here in 200 years? Don't you know that the poisons from your broken TVs and cellphone batteries will leak into the water systems?. Don't you know that poisons will bring more cancer to your people? Haven't you heard Psalm 24:1 “the Earth is the Lord's”

But the human turned his back and refused to listen.

And then he noticed something and said “strange how all these factories are making smoke and carbon pollution go up into the sky” (*paints black streaks in the sky*). I really hadn’t noticed it happened so slowly.

(SKY APPEARS: moving as if blowing in the wind)

The sky said: please human, please stop putting carbon pollution into the sky. You are making a blanket around the earth which is making it warm up. You are making drought in some places and floods in others. Please please stop. Don’t you remember in Genesis 1, “In the beginning God created the sky?”

So the human panicked. Oh my gosh what will God say? He will be so cross with me. So the human tried to sort it out all by himself. (*Takes damp cloth and tries to rub out the black streaks in the sky*). Oh no it is getting worse and worse and help here comes God.... what will I do

When God saw what the humans had made he was very sad because he loved the trees and the rivers and the land and the sky.

But he also loved the human, so he took the human by his hand, and carried the picture to the foot of the cross.

“Come he said let us bring your mess to foot of the cross, and together we will be part of Jesus’ saving work here on earth”. (*They place the picture at the foot of the cross and the human kneels down*)

And God said, remember John 3:16, I loved the world so much that I send my only begotten son.

(He stays kneeling for a moment, then walks away leaving the picture at the foot of the cross).

Adapted from a drama by Adrian and Lucy Thompson

LITURGICAL RESOURCES

The service can start with the lighting of three candles.

- L We kindle a light to God, the Creator,
who created light in the cosmos
and breathed life into all creation.

A light is kindled.

- L We kindle a light to Jesus Christ,
The light of the world,
our hope and our salvation.

A light is kindled.

- L We kindle a light to the Holy Spirit,
who sets our faith on fire
and gives us courage to follow the truth.

A light is kindled.

Creating God, your name is written in every leaf, every bird, every river, every stone, every living being. Thank you for calling us by name. Thank you for your continued creating power in moisture, rivers, forests and oceans. Make us attentive to the wounds of the earth and willing to work for the healing of the whole creation. Let our children enjoy an abundant nature and live a long life on earth.

Lord God,

We thank you for the gift of life.

We thank and praise you for the mystery of creation.

We know that you are in us,

And we in you.

Guide us, therefore,

In our efforts

To hand on the earth to future generations,

So that others can seek to understand

Your will and purpose in the world,

Bring your love to perfection

And magnify your holy name.

Help us overcome godlessness with love.

Help us support and protect

the victims of climate change everywhere;

Those who've lost

their homes or livelihoods

to the ravages of famine, fire and flood.

Teach us to live in peace

And harmony with all creation.

Lord, in your name,

Amen.

Prayers from A Season of Creation 2 (Revised)

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