

WORLD ENVIRONMENT DAY 2016

THEME: WILD FOR LIFE!



Suggested Readings

- Genesis 1:12-28
- Psalm 148
- Rev 5:11-14
- Matthew 10:26-33

Introduction

Leader We light a candle to God, the Creator,
 who created light in the cosmos
 and breathed life into all creation.
A candle is lit

Leader We light a candle to Jesus Christ,
 The light of the world,
 our hope and our salvation.
A candle is lit

Leader We light a candle to the Holy Spirit,
 who sets our faith on fire
 and gives us courage to follow the truth.
A candle is lit.

(Per Harling. Reproduced by ECEN for Creation Time 2001)

KYRIE

As we come home to Earth.

Lord have mercy

As we seek to love our home.

Christ, have mercy.

As we seek to care for our kin.

Lord, have mercy.

**God, our Creator, help us to love
all creatures as kin,
all animals as partners on Earth,
all birds as messengers of praise,
all tiny beings as expressions of your mysterious design
and protect all creatures as voices of hope. Amen.**

(www.seasonofcreation.com)

Collect

Creator God

out of the overflowing of your love you created all things
with rich variety and great beauty
and entrusted us with responsibility for them
grant that we might so value all that you have given into our care
that we may strive to sustain its blessings for all people for all time
through our Lord and saviour Jesus Christ
who is alive and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit
one God now and for ever
Amen

Prayers

O God, enlarge within us the sense of fellowship with all living things, for our brothers and sisters, the animals who cannot talk, for we share the earth as our common home. We remember with shame that in the past we have exercised the domination of humanity with ruthless cruelty so that the voice of the earth, which should have gone up to you in song has become a groan of anguish and a cry of torment. May we realize that animals do not live for us alone, but for themselves and for you, and that they too love the sweetness of life. Amen. Prayer of St Basil (Adapted)

God of all creation, as we look at the environment, your divine power and immense love are ever present. We thank you for the beautiful creation and abundant resources you have provided your children. We ask for your help in revealing how we can be better stewards of your creation. Help us to use only the resources we need, never being selfish by taking more than necessary. Please give us the opportunity to share our wealth with those who are less fortunate instead of disposing of our surplus. Help us to remember that the environment is home to all life and that we must take up the responsibility to ensure all life is respected. We thank you for this day and ask for your blessing on this journey. Amen. (CHAUSA)

God of creation, you created animals to roam the earth and fish to fill the seas. We pray for creatures on the verge of extinction, and that those responsible for poaching and polluting will be held responsible. Help us to live in a way that does not endanger life, but cherishes and nourished the life around us. Amen (Sojourners)

CREATIVE SUGGESTIONS

VIDEO CLIPS

[What a wonderful world](#)

MUSIC DURING COMMUNION

While the congregation receives communion, instead of music being sung, put on a CD of birdsong or whales

Prayer for Africa

O Lord, Creator of the entire world,
O Loving God,
This prayer is for Africa.

Bless the plains, rivers, trees
And all the African lands.
Bless the birds, fish and animals
That bring beauty and abundance to Africa.

(Education for Justice)

DRAMA – THE STORY OF THE HUMMING BIRD

Characters:

- Narrator
- Humming bird: dressed in green and blue. If you are creative you can design wings and a beak. This should be a small person!
- Larger animals: Elephants, monkey, tortoise, snake, owl, and sheep (add in others too!) Make up costumes and masks for them. Be creative!

Narrator: *(the narrator reads the story, the animals can say the part in bold, or the narrator can read it all)*

Once upon a time a fire broke out in the forest. All the animals ran about in a panic as they saw the forest burning. *(The animals all make their own noises in a panic as they run around)*

The Elephant waved his trunk and said in a deep voice: **Oh my, oh my, that is a terrible fire! What can we do? I am sure my grandfather remembers a worse fire, but even so that is really bad.**

The Tortoise moved slowly over and said very, very slowly: **Oh what a shame – I wish I could do something to stop the fire, but I am just sooo tired.**

The Monkey jumped up and down and said: **oh my, oh my, we must call together all the animals: if we only had lots and lots of people we could make a difference!**

The Snake said: **Oh it is not my problem** and slithered away as fast as he could.

The Owl Said: **Toowit too woo? What can we do? Let us call a meeting and examine the evidence. Then we can plan a comprehensive strategy. Toowit too woo? What can we do? Toowit too woo – what can we do?**

The Sheep said: **Meeeh: I am so scaaaared, meeeeh I am so scaaaared.**

And the fire got bigger and bigger and closer and closer.

The Humming bird said" **'I'm going to do something about the fire!'** So he (or she) flew to the nearest stream and took a drop of water. She put it on the fire, and flew up and down, up and down, up and down, as fast as she could.

(The hummingbird must now keep running up and down up and down with a small cup of water, without stopping)

The Elephant said: **'What do you think you can do? You are too little. This fire is too big. Your wings are too little and your beak is so small that you can only bring a small drop of water at a time.'**

The Monkey fell about laughing and said "Oh **silly, silly hummingbird you are soo tiny! What a silly bird you are"**

The Sheep said **"If the elephant is not doing anything then neither shall I! Meeeh!"**

The Owl said – **"if you calculate how much water you are carrying then scientifically it will make no difference"**.

The Tortoise said nothing – for he was asleep already.

But the Hummingbird turned to them and said

"I am doing the best I can"

Narrator: And that is what all of us should do. We should always be like a hummingbird. I may be small, but I certainly don't want to be like the animals watching the fire burn up their home. I will not stand and watch while the planet goes down the drain. I will be a hummingbird, I will do the best I can.

(Based on a story by Wangari Maathai)