
World Environment Day



Time for Nature



Preparation

The following symbols are prepared.

- water in a clear container
- soil for the earth symbol in a clear container and a rock
- some feathers or leaves to represent the air
- a lit candle for fire

Introduction

Today we celebrate both Trinity Sunday and World Environment Day. The theme for this year is “Time for Nature”. With 1 million species facing extinction, there has never been a more important time to focus on biodiversity. We had come to believe that humans are no longer part of the natural world. We have taken nature as a resource to be used and abused. Although we don’t know exactly how the corona virus came to us, it seems that it may have originated with bats and jumped to pangolins and then to humans. Ebola, SARS, Swine flu and Mad cow disease were all wake up calls that we ignored. WWF says that pandemics are the boomerang effect of the destruction of ecosystems. We can only protect human health if we protect the health of the planet. We are sick because the earth is sick

Today we worship God, the Creator of the universe, the God who calls us to live in loving relationship with all creation.

The Lord be with you

And also with you

The four symbols are placed on the altar and the following is said

The lit candle – the fire is a symbol of the sun’s burning energy, powering our planet
The bowl of water – the water is a symbol of oceans of life, rivers of fruitfulness, wetlands of purity, clouds of promise and glaciers of mystery

The feather or leaf – symbolizes the air we breathe, this ancient mix of gases gives flight to birds, creates climatic patterns, fills our lungs with the same breath as all other beings

The soil – the seedbed of life, holding the precious secrets of food and fertility, grounding rain forests, spanning vast deserts, holding grasslands, cloaking mountains and fringing seas.

The Gloria may be said or sung

Celebrant: Creator God, your power transforms all of creation – transform us.
Lord, have mercy.

All: Lord, have mercy.

C: Christ, you give us courage and hope to manifest the unity we have in you – unite us. Christ, have mercy.

A: Christ, have mercy.

C: Holy Spirit, you empower us to work for justice with people and the earth- empower us. Lord, have mercy.

A: Lord, have mercy.

Leader: Father God, your fertile earth is slowly being stripped of its riches,

All: Open our eyes to see.

Leader: Holy Spirit, your living waters are slowly being choked with chemicals,

All: Open our eyes to see.

Leader; Christ our Lord, your clear air is slowly being filled with pollutants,

All: Open our eyes to see.

Leader: Father God, your people are suffering and your creatures are slowly dying

All: Open our eyes to see.

Leader: God our maker, so move us by the wonder of creation,

All: That we may repent and care more deeply.

Leader: So move us to grieve the loss of life,

All: That we learn to cherish and protect your world.

Absolution

Collect for World Environment Day

Creator of the universe,
we pray in gratitude and praise.

You were there at the beginning of all things,
shaping our world, and preparing it for us.

You have provided the mountains and the trees,
the waters and the earth.

Help us to be caretakers of your gifts,
protecting the land from abuse,

and ready to share with all in need.

Show us how to use our science and technology
in creative ways.

Deepen our awareness of our connectedness with all your creation,
so that future generations will also enjoy every blessing

Amen

Collect for Trinity Sunday

God of unchangeable power; You have revealed yourself to us as Father, Son and Holy Spirit: Keep us firm in this faith that we may praise and bless your Holy name, for you are one God, living and reigning in glory , now and for ever. Amen

Readings

Genesis 1:1-2:4a

Psalm 8

2 Cor 13:11-13

Matthew 28:16-20

Prayers of the People

Father, we praise you with all your creatures.

They came forth from your all-powerful hand;

they are yours, filled with your presence and your tender love.

Praise be to you!

Teach us to contemplate you

in the beauty of the universe,

for all things speak of you.

Awaken our praise and thankfulness

for every being that you have made.

Give us the grace to feel profoundly joined

to everything that is.

God of love, show us our place in this world

as channels of your love

for all the creatures of this earth,

for not one of them is forgotten in your sight.

Please use the Eucharistic Prayer for the Season of Creation

[Eucharistic Prayer for the Season of Creation](#)

<http://www.greenanglicans.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/08/season-of-creation-online2.pdf>

Final Blessing:

God loves justice and right and fills the earth with love.

May God bless you with a passion for justice and a love of creation.

Jesus promises to be with us to the end of time.

May God bless you with the eyes to see and the ears to hear the Word of God in your environment.

The Spirit unites us as children of God. May God bless you with reverence for all creation.

May Almighty God bless you, the Father, and the Son and the Holy Spirit.

References

Adapted from
2009 Document published by the
Diocesan Commission for Environmental Awareness,
Catholic Diocese of Rockhampton.

Season of Creation
Mash, R. Anglican Church of Southern Africa