



Grace Episcopal Church
Randolph, New York

22 April 2020 @ 10:00 AM

EARTH DAY
Prayers of Intercession

A MEDITATION FROM JULIAN OF NORWICH

I saw that God was everything that is good and encouraging.
God is our clothing that wraps, clasps and encloses us
so as never to leave us.

God showed me in my palm
a little thing round as a ball
about the size of a hazelnut.

I looked at it with the eye of my understanding
and asked myself: "What is this thing?"
And I was answered: "It is everything that is created."

I wondered how it could survive since it seemed so little
and it could suddenly disintegrate into nothing.

The answer came:
"It endures and ever will endure because God loves it."

And so everything has being because of God's love.

Invocation

Glorify the Lord, all you works of the Lord, *
praise him and highly exalt him for ever.
In the firmament of his power, glorify the Lord, *
praise him and highly exalt him for ever.

I The Cosmic Order

Glorify the Lord, you angels and all powers of the Lord, *
O heavens and all waters above the heavens.
Sun and moon and stars of the sky, glorify the Lord, *
praise him and highly exalt him for ever.

Glorify the Lord, every shower of rain and fall of dew, *
all winds and fire and heat.
Winter and summer, glorify the Lord, *
praise him and highly exalt him for ever.

Glorify the Lord, O chill and cold, *
drops of dew and flakes of snow.
Frost and cold, ice and sleet, glorify the Lord, *
praise him and highly exalt him for ever.

Glorify the Lord, O nights and days, *
O shining light and enfolding dark.
Storm clouds and thunderbolts, glorify the Lord, *
praise him and highly exalt him for ever.

II The Earth and its Creatures

Let the earth glorify the Lord, *
praise him and highly exalt him for ever.
Glorify the Lord, O mountains and hills, and all that grows upon the earth, *
praise him and highly exalt him for ever.

Glorify the Lord, O springs of water, seas, and streams, *
O whales and all that move in the waters.
All birds of the air, glorify the Lord, *
praise him and highly exalt him for ever.

Glorify the Lord, O beasts of the wild, *
and all you flocks and herds.
O men and women everywhere, glorify the Lord, *
praise him and highly exalt him for ever.

III The People of God

Let the people of God glorify the Lord, *
praise him and highly exalt him for ever.
Glorify the Lord, O priests and servants of the Lord, *
praise him and highly exalt him for ever.

Glorify the Lord, O spirits and souls of the righteous, *
praise him and highly exalt him for ever.
You that are holy and humble of heart, glorify the Lord, *
praise him and highly exalt him for ever.

Doxology

Let us glorify the Lord: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit; *
praise him and highly exalt him for ever.
In the firmament of his power, glorify the Lord, *
praise him and highly exalt him for ever.

PRAYER FOR THE CARE OF OUR EARTH

O God, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen:
Your great love has placed us in your creation, and you commanded us to care for it.
Your works declare glory and strength, and you call us to praise and reverence.
Where we have degraded or destroyed earth's bounty, forgive us.
Where we have taken beauty and majesty for granted, have mercy upon us.
Where we have become estranged from the creatures with whom we share this planet,
grant us your peace.

Creator God, **hear our prayer.**

As we join together in celebration of the Earth, we know that there are many things
that thwart our efforts and our responsibilities to your creation. The issues of the
environment and conservation are often associated with differing political views.
For the openness to learn about environmental issues and concerns, we pray:

Creator God, **hear our prayer.**

In such a great and complex world, we often feel so small and helpless, as if what we do has no impact on the rest of your creation. Yet we know that because we are created in your image, we are connected with the entirety of creation, just as you are. For an awareness of how our own lifestyles can be modified to help protect the environment, we pray:

Creator God, **hear our prayer.**

In an environmental catastrophe, the people who suffer first and greatest are often the poorest of the poor. Yet we rarely hear their voices, silenced as they are by the realities of global life. For those who live in poverty and suffer the devastating effects of flooding, drought, and other environmental issues, we pray:

Creator God, **hear our prayer.**

In recent days, even the ground under our feet has begun to tremble, reminding us that we live together in a fragile community of life. For our own community, our city and state, we pray:

Creator God, **hear our prayer.**

As members of this creation, we live and die according to the cycle of life that is common in all the world. For those in our midst who suffer from sickness and death, we pray:

Creator God, **hear our prayer.**

God of the sun and the moon of the mountains, deserts and plains;
God of the mighty oceans, of rivers, lakes and streams;
God of all creatures that live in the seas and fly in the air;
Of every living thing that grows and moves on this sacred Earth
We are formed by Christ into your people,
called to bring the world into your marvelous light.
As the Body of Christ, we are messengers of ecological vocation
We are entrusted with caring for this Earth which you have created
Help us to love and respect it, to repair what we have damaged
To care for what you have made good and holy.
Give us the wisdom and the passion
To change our minds and hearts and our ways
Let us be the change we pray for,
Bringing about ecological conversion which grows and spreads
to every corner of the Earth
For our sake now and for every generation which is to come.

Creator God, **hear our prayer.**

HYMN: STEWARDS OF EARTH



1. All praise to you, O Lord of all cre - a - tion; _____
2. With won-drous grace you clothed the earth in splen-dor; _____
3. To tend the earth is our en-trust - ed du - ty, _____



1. You made the world, and it is yours a - lone. _____
2. With teem - ing life you filled the sea and land. _____
3. For earth is ours to use and not a - buse. _____



1. The plan - et earth you spun in its lo - ca - tion _____
2. In - still in us a sense of awe and won - der _____
3. O gra-cious Lord, true source of all re - sourc - es, _____



1. A - mid the stars a - dorn - ing heav - en's dome. _____
2. When we be - hold the boun - ty of your hand. _____
3. For - give our greed that wields de - struc - tion's sword. _____



1. We lease the earth but for a life's du - ra - tion, _____
2. Then, when we hear the voice of bird or thun - der, _____
3. Then let us serve as wise and faith - ful stew - ards _____



1. Yet for this life it is our cher - ished home. _____
2. We hear the voice our faith can un - der - stand. _____
3. While earth gives glo - ry to cre - a - tion's Lord. _____

BENEDICTION

Sisters and brothers in Christ,
let us go forth to stand in God's Holy place —
And then all will care for the sick and the weak and the old
And then all will nourish the young
And then all will cherish life's creatures
And then all will live in harmony with each other and the Earth
And then everywhere will be called Eden once again.
Amen.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Meditation from Julian of Norwich
as found in the Iona Abbey Worship Book, p. 137

A Song of Creation
taken from *The Book of Common Prayer*, 1979.

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Prayers for Care of Our Earth
The Rev. Ken Carter, http://www.gbod.org/worship/default.asp?act=reader&item_id=13896
Catholic Earthcare Launch, Brisbane, Australia, catholicearthcareoz.net

Benediction
from *No One But Us*, a liturgy from the *Seekers Church* community. <http://www.seekerschurch.org/>

General Service Layout
Dr. Stacy Smith, <https://stacysmith.wordpress.com/>

Grace Episcopal Church

Founded 1859 + Ministering at this location since 1879

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The Rt. Rev. Dr. Sean Rowe, *Bishop*
The Very Rev. Thomas M. Broad, *Rector*
Audrey Wicks & Yvonne Carlson, *Wardens*

Live, Serve, Praise Christ through Grace
