

# Creation



# GATHERING

*We stand as able.*

## OPENING ACCLAMATION

**Presider:** Grace to you and peace, from God our Creator,  
the Love at our beginning and without end,  
forever in our midst and within us, birthing new life.

**Assembly:** **Glory to God for ever and ever.**

Hymn

## OPENING COLLECT

## STORIES & READINGS

*We sit.*

## TEACHING

## HEART OFFERINGS OF THE PEOPLE

**Leader:** Beloved, we thank you for your gift in creation:  
for our world,

**Assembly:** **the heavens tell of your glory;**

**Leader:** We thank you for our land, its beauty and its resources,

**Assembly:** **for the rich heritage we enjoy.**

**Leader:** We remember those who make decisions about the resources of the earth,

**Assembly:** **that we may use your gifts responsibly;**

**Leader:** We remember those who work on the land and waters, in city and in industry,

**Assembly:** **that all may enjoy the fruits of their labors  
and marvel at your creation;**

**Leader:** We remember artists, scientists and visionaries,

**Assembly:** **that through their work we may see creation afresh.**

*Silence*

**Leader:** (N) We thank you for giving us life and we pray for the sick and suffering

**Assembly:** **for all who enrich our experience.**

*Leader:* We remember all who through their own or others' actions  
are deprived of fullness of life,

*Assembly:* **for prisoners, refugees, and all who are sick.**

*Leader:* We remember those in politics, medical science, social and relief work;  
and for your Church,

*Assembly:* **for all who seek to bring life to others.**

*Silence*

*Leader:* We thank you that you have called us to celebrate your creation.

*Assembly:* **Give us reverence for life in your world.**

*Leader:* We thank you for your redeeming love especially as it embraces the departed (*N*);

*Assembly:* **may your word and sacrament  
strengthen us to love as you love us.**

*Silence*

*Leader:* Creating God bring us new life.

*Assembly:* **Redeeming Christ renew us.**

*Leader:* Strengthening Spirit guide us.

*Presider:* Beloved of our soul,  
let us your people know  
that at the heart of turbulence  
there is an inner calm that comes from faith in You.  
Keep us from blind-full contentment with injustice,  
that from this central peace  
there may come a creative compassion,  
a thirst for justice,  
and a willingness to give of ourselves  
in the spirit of Christ.

*All:* **Amen.**

THE PEACE

*Presider:* The peace of Christ be always with you.

*Assembly:* **And also with you.**

# HOSPITALITY

Welcoming of Visitors and Guests

Announcements

Recognition of Birthdays & Anniversaries

## Fed with Thanksgiving

Hymn

*We stand as able.*

### PRESENTATION OF THE GIFTS

*Presider:* Praise God from whom all blessings flow.

*Assembly:* **Praise God whose grace our hearts well know.**

*Presider:* Praise God whose fullness makes us whole.

*Assembly:* **Praise God, our life, our love, our soul.**

*Presider:* Your abiding Presence hovers over the deep drawing forth life from the dark womb of chaos, giving surprising birth to this unfolding creation bursting with stars and comets and cosmic dust and pin-wheeling galaxies; inviting into life within an endless expanse of expanding space this precious blue-green sphere we know as home – this lovely, lovely, earth.

Without You nothing can be. With You as its ever-quickenning heart this cosmos is creation – your sacred body. All that *is* unfolds from You and is a sign for our journey home. Whatever the eyes of our soul behold, if we behold with You as our soul, is a graceful jewel telling of your wondrous presence.

May the listening and learning way of Jesus, a creature like all creatures woven into being from the dust of this earth, become our path of life, teaching us how to open our hearts, our minds, our bodies to receive as You all that dwells upon this place we call our island home. May we, like Jesus, learn to rest in trust upon this earthen land receiving the holy wisdom woven into her rhythm of life by your very Spirit.

*Presider:* Earth, teach us stillness

*Assembly:* **As the grasses are stilled with light.**

*Presider:* Earth, teach us suffering

*Assembly:* **As old stones suffer with memory.**

*Presider:* Earth, teach us humility

*Assembly:* **As blossoms are humble with beginning.**

*Presider:* Earth, teach us caring  
*Assembly:* **As the mother who secures her young**  
*Presider:* Earth, teach us courage  
*Assembly:* **As the tree which stands all alone.**  
*Presider:* Earth, teach us limitation  
*Assembly:* **As the ant which crawls on the ground.**  
*Presider:* Earth, teach us freedom  
*Assembly:* **As the eagle which soars in the sky.**  
*Presider:* Earth, teach us acceptance  
*Assembly:* **As the leaves which die in the fall.**  
*Presider:* Earth, teach us regeneration  
*Assembly:* **As the seed which rises in the spring**  
*Presider:* Earth, teach us to forget ourselves  
*Assembly:* **As melted snow forgets its life.**  
*Presider:* Earth, teach us to remember kindness  
*Assembly:* **As dry fields weep with rain.**

*Presider:* May this promised land, the Earth, teach us to discover that from You all blessings do flow. Your Spirit hovers over the deep giving birth to all – creation is Christ incarnate. Your Spirit unites Mary and Joseph giving birth to the prophet from Nazareth – Jesus grows as Christ. Your Spirit suffuses souls giving birth to searching pilgrims – the unfolding body of Christ. Here, upon this fragile sphere within boundless space, You are inviting all things to realize the Christ they are created to be – becoming new, tasting your glory, knowing wholeness in You.

You gather us this day, new-born in your Spirit, a people after your own heart. With all the Earth, in communion with those who have walked before us in ages past and those whose journey lies in promise upon the horizon, we joyfully praise You:

*All:* **Holy, holy, holy:  
God of mercy, giver of life;  
Earth, sea and sky and all that lives  
Declare your presence and your glory.**

*Presider:* All glory to You, Giver of life, sufficient and full for all creation. On the night before he dies, Jesus takes bread, gives thanks, breaks it, and says, take and eat, for this is my body, being given for you. Do this to remember me.

After supper Jesus takes the cup, gives thanks,  
gives it to them and says, drink this, all of you,  
for this is my blood of the new covenant. Do this to remember me.

Here and now, with this bread and wine,  
we celebrate your great acts of liberation,  
ever present and living in Jesus the Christ, crucified and risen,  
who was, and is, and is to come.

**All: Empower our celebration with your Spirit,  
feed us with your life, fire us with your love, confront us with your justice,  
for truly we are one with your creation as the body of Christ.**

*Presider:* Through Christ,  
in the power of the Spirit,  
with all who stand before You in earth and heaven,  
we worship You, Creating God.

**All: Amen.**

*Presider:* In the Spirit of Christ we now sing,

## THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD

*Presider:* We break this bread  
to share in the Body of Christ.

**Assembly: We who are many are one body,  
for we all share in the one bread.**

*Presider:* The Gifts of God.  
All are invited to God's table.

## THE COMMUNION

Communion Hymn

## SENDING FORTH

*We stand as able.*

*Presider:* Let us pray

**All: God of abundance,  
You feed us  
with the bread of life and cup of salvation;  
You unite us  
with Christ and one another;**

**and You make us one  
with all your people in heaven and on earth.  
Now send us forth  
in the power of your Spirit,  
that we may receive with honor all we meet;  
that we may share your love with all we receive;  
and continue for ever  
in the risen life of Christ. Amen.**

## BLESSING

*Presider:* Blessing of galaxies, blessing of stars  
*Assembly:* **great stars, small stars, red stars, blue ones.**  
*Presider:* Blessing of nebula, blessing of supernova,  
*Assembly:* **planets, satellites, asteroids, comets.**  
*Presider:* Blessing of sun and moon, blessing of our earth;  
*Assembly:* **oceans, rivers, continents, mountain ranges.**  
*Presider:* Blessing of wind and cloud, blessing of rain  
*Assembly:* **fog bank, snowdrift, lightning and thunder.**

*Presider:* Blessing of green plants, blessing of forests:  
*Assembly:* **cedar, white pine, fiddlehead, thimbleberry**  
*Presider:* Blessing of fish and birds, blessing of mammals  
*Assembly:* **salmon, eagle, fisher and black bear**

*Presider:* May all humankind likewise offer blessing:  
*Assembly:* **old and young, wise and foolish**  
*Presider:* blessing of youthfulness, blessing of children  
*Assembly:* **big girls, little girls, big boys and little boys.**

*Presider:* Blessing of the Holy One above us in wisdom  
Blessing of the Holy One beneath us in truth  
Blessing of the Holy One within us in love.  
*Assembly:* **Amen.**

## Hymn

*Presider:* Go in peace serving Christ and all creation!  
*Assembly:* **Thanks be to God.**

Researched and originally adapted by Rise Thew Forrester. Edited by Kevin Thew Forrester.

Sources: [www.seasonofcreation.com](http://www.seasonofcreation.com); New Zealand Prayer Book; Earth Prayers from Around the World. © Kevin G. Thew Forrester, 2018.