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Ringling 350 for Creation
October 24, 2009
International Day of Climate Action
350.org

I. PRAISE

OPENING SENTENCES

Creation dawned as Light shining in darkness.
Creation began with a Word of invitation and imagination.
Creation was born by brooding Spirit's breath.
Creation goes on in bright light and undying hope.
Creation continues in vivid imagination and vital energy.
Creation thrives in new life and surprising beauty.

SONG: Morning has Broken

READING: Genesis 1:1-5: The First Day

PRAYER (together)

*Light of Life: Awaken in us an urge to breathe, to open our eyes, to hope, to dream.
May the bell's tolling wake us up and arouse in us your creative Spirit.
All nature sings and round us rings, the music of the spheres.*

*The bell is rung 50 times
as we give thanks for light and the dawning of a new day.*

II. CONFESSION

READING: Genesis 1:6-8: The Second Day

A teaching about climate change.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

*We crave comfort and convenience and quickness.
We heat and cool our homes.
We buy quick, prepackaged food.
We drive our cars and fly in planes.
Our cravings have hurt the creation.*

*We buy things not knowing where they are from.
We eat fruit flown in from far off lands.
We wear clothes made in unsafe, inhumane places.
We forget or refuse to reuse, reduce and recycle.
Our ignorance has hurt the creation.*

*We are slow to change our ways.
We are in denial about climate change.
We feel like the problem is too big.
We wonder if we can make a difference.
Our resistance has hurt the creation.*

ASSURANCE

Grace abounds! The Creator Spirit has the power of healing and forgiveness!
Glory be! The Spirit gives us a new beginning, new hope!

*The bell is rung 50 times
as we ponder our part in the wounding and healing of creation.*

III. THE WORD

READING: Genesis 1:9-13: The Third Day

CALL AND RESPONSE

Q: What does it mean to be “Green”?

A: To be “green” is to care for God’s good creation.

Greenness is...

...the leaves of the trees...

The people add their green words.

A CELTIC PRAYER (together)

*There is no plant in the ground
But tells of your beauty, O God.
There is no creature on the earth
There is no life in the sea
But proclaims your goodness.
There is no bird on the wing
There is no star in the sky
There is nothing beneath the sun
But is full of your blessings.
Lighten our understanding of your presence all around, O God.
Kindle our wills to be caring for creation.*

(J. Philip Newell, Celtic Prayers from Iona, Paulist Press, adapted)

*The bell is rung 50 times
as we celebrate the greening of creation.*

IV. WITNESS

READING: Genesis 1:14-29: The Fourth Day

*A leader will bear witness with a personal story, and ask
“Now what do I do?” “Now what will you do?”*

Participants will be invited to respond.

*The bell is rung 50 times
as we resolve to take some action for creation.*

V. INTERCESSIONS

READING: Genesis 1:20-23

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Response: Creator Spirit, *heal your creation.*

(together)

*Holy One, together we have harmed your creation and together we can bring healing.
With hope for the renewing of creation--more oxygen, less carbon;
with hope for the ice caps and the ozone;
with gratitude for nature’s diversity and abundance,
we join our hearts and our voices:
Creator Spirit, heal your creation.*

*The bell is rung 50 times
as we pray for creation’s future.*

VI. THANKSGIVING

READING: Genesis 1:24-31: The Sixth Day

THANKSGIVING

We are part of creation; we are stewards, caretakers.
We are made in God’s image; we are creative, imaginative.
We are given many gifts; we are gifted with the awesome beauty of the cosmos.
We are called to be grateful; we are offered more than enough.
We are free to love; we are given a chance to care, to share, to heal, to restore.
With thankful hearts, let us take our God-given place in the world. Amen.

BLESSING

Blessed to be a blessing, we bless future generations with our words and actions.
Blessed to be a blessing, we bless... [...this tree, these native plants, these birdfeeders...]
with hope for Shalom.
Blessed to be a blessing, we bless one another, God-made creatures one and all.

The people bless one another with a greeting.

*The bell is rung 50 times
as we give thanks for the blessings of creation.*

VII. GOING FORTH

READING: Genesis 2:1-4

LITANY OF RESPONSE (based on Psalm 148)

Praise the Lord!

Across the heavens,
from the heights,
all you angels, heavenly beings,
sing praise, sing praise!
Sun and moon, glittering stars,
sing praise, sing praise.
Highest heavens, rain clouds,
sing praise, sing praise.
Praise God's name,
whose word called you forth
and fixed you in place forever
by eternal decree.

Let there be praise:

*[those gathered repeat "praise, praise"
quietly as leaders continue]*
from depths of the earth,
from creatures of the deep.
Fire and hail, snow and mist,
storms, winds,
mountains, hills,
fruit trees and cedars,
wild beasts and tame,
snakes and birds,
princes, judges,
rulers, subjects,
men, women,
old and young,
praise, praise the holy name,
this name beyond all names.
God's splendor above the earth,
above the heavens,
gives strength to the nations,
glory to the faithful,
people close to the Lord.
Let there be praise!

*The bell is rung 50 times
as we go forth to care for creation.
[Plants are distributed; birdfeeders are hung; a tree is planted...]*