



Prayer of Confession

Creator God, you give light and life, and express delight in your creation.
You gave the command to till and care for your garden,
but we have abused the beauty of creation.
We confess we have not taken care to understand the earth, and care for it.
We have taken the climate for granted and unthinkingly polluted the earth.
We confess the churches' lack of concern for the well-being of creation.
We confess the excesses within our own daily lives, our pursuit of comfort and
pleasure at the expense of the earth.
Creator God, we have desecrated your creation and darkened your light.
In a moment of quiet we confess our faults.

Lord, you are a gracious God and you forgive all those who confess their faults
and with your help fully intend to live better lives - coming ever closer to you.
We feel your pardon with us now and we are glad.

Words of Renewal

God of life and God of light,
as we seek a new relationship with your created order,
may we sense the grace and peace of a new relationship with you.
Amen. (Eco-Congregation - used with permission)

Symbolic action:

Congregation bring forward an object from nature (flower, leaf, fruit, or other). Pledge cards (Tearfund or Operation Noah) to reduce our carbon emissions are given out

Leader: Almighty God, Creator and Lifegiver,
we are part of your beautiful but fragile creation.
We have the responsibility to protect,
to nurture and to respect it.
We bring before you tokens of the beauty of the earth
exchanged for our commitment to cut our carbon emissions
for the sake of the planet and all your people.
Give us the grace to honour the commitment we
make this day, and live more lightly on the earth. **Amen**

Hymn suggestions:

For ourselves no longer living,	Fred Kaan
We are not our own. Earth forms us	Brian Wren

Family Time: (with accompanying PowerPoint)

The leader might like to focus on 3 things:

1. Unfair carbon footprints - how the rich countries are responsible for most of the carbon emissions as a result of our lifestyles but the poorest communities are hit disproportionately hard by climate change.





2. God the Creator who made the earth, all creatures and humankind. God wants us to have a close relationship with Him but also to look after and respect the earth, because if the earth suffers, we suffer and we have nowhere else to go. God will guide us along a path of more simple living.

3. We each have to cut back our carbon emissions and have a smaller footprint, more to the size of our brothers and sisters in poor countries.

Prayer

Father we have taken the earth and its resources for granted
And we have been blind to how our lives impact on others,
and especially on the poorest communities.

Father we turn back to you and ask you to help us to live simpler lives
and to be much more careful in all the resources we use - because it is your earth.
Lord we trust that you are in charge and you can help us to change our ways.

Amen

Hymn suggestions: **The glory of creation**
 Touch the Earth lightly

Denzil Walton²
Common Ground

Offertory and dedication

Bible readings: Creation is a recurring theme in the Bible. The Powerpoint presentation takes a number of key passages. Or you may want to select from the following passages:

*"To the Lord belong the earth and everything in it, the world and all its inhabitants.
For it was he who founded it in the seas and planted it firm on the waters beneath". Ps 24*

"God created the great sea creatures . . the beasts of the earth according to their kinds . . And God said it was good. . And God saw everything that he had made, and behold, it was very good. . . And God blessed the seventh day and made it holy". Genesis 1

"The Word was first, the Word present to God, God present to the Word. The Word was God, everything was created through him; nothing - not one thing - came into being without him. What came into existence was Life, and the Life was Light to live by." John 1:1-4 (The Message)

"God so loved the world that he sent his only Son that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life." John 3:16

Christ is "the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation...by whom and through whom all things were created, in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible . . . all things were created by him and for him . . . and in him all things hold together. " Colossians 1:15-17

"Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name. . .Your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Matt 6:9-10

"he has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor . . to set the oppressed free" Luke 4:18

² Down load free from www.ecocongregation.org/englandwales/index.html



