

## Service of Prayer and Reflection

*Based on a service used at St Anne's, Dawson Street, Dublin,  
during a Dáil Lobby on Climate Change*

*Use appropriate symbols, colours music etc*

### OPENING PRAYERS

Leader: 'Whoever benefits from the world without first blessing God is as if they robbed God or violated God's property.' *(Talmud)*

Let us bless God, to acknowledge that nothing in nature is to be taken for granted.

Leader: Blessed are you O God,  
Maker of heaven and earth,  
giver of all good things.

All: **Creation sings your praises**

Leader: Blessed are you O Christ  
Son of God eternal,  
Bringer of good news to the poor.

All: **Creation cries out for your justice**

Leader: Blessed are you O Holy Spirit,  
Giver of life and renewal,  
Uniting us in worship and service.

All: **Creation longs for your wisdom**

Creating God, your name is written in every leaf, every bird, every river, every living being.  
Thank you for calling us by name.  
Thank you for your continued creating power in moisture, rivers, and oceans.  
Make us attentive to the wounds of the earth and willing to work for the healing of the  
whole creation. Let our children enjoy an abundant nature and live a long life on earth.

*(2003 Lutheran World Federation Assembly in Winnipeg)*

### READING ONE: PSALM 104

Leader: We are the people of God, the Almighty.

All: **Created in the image of God.**

Leader: We are the people of God, the Redeemer.

All: **Released in Jesus Christ, carriers of reconciliation.**

Leader: We are the people of God, the Giver of Life.

All: **Open to the inspiration of the Spirit in faith, hope and love.**

Leader: Praise to you, Creator of heaven and earth.

All: **You give us the food of the earth and the water of the well.**

Leader: Praise to you, Jesus Christ, who walked our ways.

All: **You have revealed the will of God and the holiness of the earth.**

Leader: Praise to you, Holy Spirit, Giver of Life.

All: **You awaken our song of praise in faith and struggle.**

Dramatised **READING TWO** based on the **Genesis** Ch. 1&2 Creation story (NRSV)  
[3 Voices]

Voice 1: In the beginning God created

Voice 2: the heavens and the earth,

Voice 1: day and night,

Voice 2: and there was evening:

Voice 1: that was the first day.

Voice 3: By burning coal, oil and natural gas, we have released billions of tonnes of carbon into the atmosphere, locking in warmth in what is known as the greenhouse effect.

Voice 2: Then God separated the waters

Voice 1: under and above the dome.

Voice 2: God called the dome, sky

Voice 1: and there was evening and morning:

Voice 2: that was the second day.

Voice 3: When sunlight strikes ice and snow, 80 per cent is reflected back into space and 20 per cent is absorbed as heat. The opposite holds true for land and open water, further increasing the rise in temperature.

Voice 1: God summoned the waters under the dome

Voice 2: to form the seas and let dry land appear.

Voice 1: And the earth put forth vegetation.

Voice 2: God saw that it was good:

Voice 1: that was the third day.

Voice 3: Melting glaciers will bring floods to some areas, while changing sea temperatures will shut down ocean currents and change rainfall patterns, causing droughts.

Voice 2: God made the sun to rule over the day,

Voice 1: the moon to rule over night,

Voice 2: to be for signs and for seasons and for days and for years.

Voice 1: And God say that it was good:

Voice 2: that was the fourth day.

Voice 3: Prolonged periods of drought will wreck harvests and destroy lives human and other species. Communities that depend on fragile agricultural cycles will be devastated.

Voice 1: God created every living thing

Voice 2: that moves and swims and flies.

Voice 1: God blessed them, saying,

Voice 2: 'Be fruitful and multiply':

Voice 1: that was the fifth day.

Voice 3: Everything will have to adapt to the effects of climate change. But while rich people and nations can more readily afford to counter rising sea levels, or repair the damage caused by hurricanes, poorer countries cannot.

Voice 2: And God said,

Voice 1: 'Let the earth bring forth living creatures of every kind'.

Voice 2: And it was so

Voice 1: and God saw that it was good.

Voice 3: The pressure that increasing floods, famine and drought will put on vulnerable countries will be devastating – for some developing countries, the effects of climate change are already catastrophic.

Voice 2: Then God said,

Voice 1: 'Let us make humankind in our image

Voice 2: and let them be carers of all the earth.'

Voice 1: God saw everything and indeed it was very good:

Voice 2: that was the sixth day.

Voice 1: On the seventh day God rested.

Voice 3: It is time to change the climate of apathy that prevails in our privileged communities, and take action to stop global warming devastating the world's most vulnerable communities and other species.

**PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

Leader: 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.  
All: **Creator God, we have desecrated your creation and darkened your light.**

Leader: Blessed is the one who shows mercy.  
Forgive our lack of compassion and respect for the world:  
We have left it too late to undo the damage already done.  
All: **Creator God, forgive us and help us to change our ways.**

Leader: Blessed is the one whose heart is pure.  
Forgive us when we call for others to change  
yet fail to examine the lives we lead.  
All: **Creator God, forgive us and help us to change our ways**

Leader: Blessed is the one who strives for peace.  
Forgive our squabbles over the earth's bounty  
Which send God's people to war.  
All: **Creator God, forgive us and help us to change our ways.**

Leader: Blessed are those who give their lives in the service of others and our planet earth  
Forgive us when we forget we live in one world  
as one people, neighbours to each other, and to the whole of Creation  
All: **Creator God, forgive us and help us to change our ways.**

Leader: Blessed is Christ who showed compassion for the poor and taught us a better way

[A short silence is kept for consideration and reflection]

**WORDS OF RENEWAL**

All: **God of life and God of light,  
As we seek a new relationship with your creation may we sense the grace and  
peace of a new relationship with you.  
Amen.**

**PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE**

Leader: Your kingdom come  
All: **Your will be done**

Leader: When we pray, show us how to use our feet  
and challenge the climate of complacency  
which denies the facts.

Leader: Your kingdom come

All: **Your will be done**

Leader: When we pray, renew our sense of urgency for challenging the climate of ignorance which threatens to cloud our judgement.

Leader: Your kingdom come

All: **Your will be done**

Leader: When we pray, renew our sense of urgency for challenging the climate of ignorance which threatens to cloud our judgement.

Leader: Your kingdom come

All: **Your will be done**

Leader: When we pray, fuel our imagination to challenge the climate of apathy which resists our need to change.

Leader: Your kingdom come

All: **Your will be done**

Leader: When we pray, teach us how to speak out and challenge the climate of hypocrisy to match good intentions with action.

Leader: Your kingdom come

All: **Your will be done**

Leader: When we pray, give us the energy to campaign to change the climate of injustice for as long as it takes.

Leader: Your kingdom come

All: **Your will be done**

Leader: For yours is the kingdom, the power and the glory

All: **For ever and ever. Amen.**

Let us pray

Leader: Most provident God, you graciously give us all good gifts, Teach us to care for our earth: to till our soil responsibly, to keep our air pure, to free our waters from pollution, to harvest the warmth of our sun, and to respect the rights of all species. May we willingly share the gifts of your goodness with one another.

We ask this of you, God of our universe.

**CREDAL STATEMENT**

All: **We believe in God the creator  
maker of heaven and earth,  
who set the time of day and night  
and the passing of the seasons,  
who created the diversity of the planet  
and created its abundance.  
We believe in Jesus Christ  
Redeemer of the world,  
who taught us the meaning of good news  
and demonstrated it in action,  
who commanded us to share our bread  
and to drink from the same cup.  
We believe in the Holy Spirit  
giver of life and renewal,  
who opens up the possibility for change  
and assures us of hope for the future,  
who grants us time to amend our lives  
and unites us in our quest for justice, peace and the integrity of creation**

**PLEDGE**

All: **We pledge ourselves  
to live responsibly  
and use only our fair share of the earth's resources.  
And we call upon those in positions of power and influence  
In the Dáil, in the Seanad, in the House of Commons, in the Assembly, in city, town  
and county Councils,  
to bring honour to your creation  
and in the systems and structures of our nation  
redress the injustice of climate change.**

**COMMUNITY BLESSING**

All: **Blessed are we when we sing your praises  
And walk faithfully on your earth.**

**Blessed are we when we proclaim your justice  
and enjoy together the fruits of creation.**

**Blessed are we when we are guided by your wisdom  
And live in harmony with your world. Amen**

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