

Prayers and Liturgies

Rainbow prayer for Operation Noah

Creator God, how deep are your designs!
You made a living earth, cloud, rain and wind,
and charged us with their care.

**We confess that the way we live today
is changing the climate,
the seas and the balance of life,
dispossessing the poor and future generations.
Build our lives into an Ark for all creation,
and, as you promised Noah never to repeat the Flood,
so makes us heralds of a new rainbow covenant:
choosing life for all that is at risk -
for creation,
for neighbours near and far,
our children and ourselves.**

(Operation Noah Launch, Coventry Cathedral, 2004)

Global warning

Creator God - maker and shaper of
all that is, seen and unseen;
You are in the expanse and depth
of Creation, and in the processes
that make life possible.

Yet we are distracted by the gods
we make ourselves and our
lives become fractured and fragmented.
In our brokenness we disturb the
Earth's capacity to hold us.
Instead we find climate uncertainty
and global injustice.

Call us back from the brink.
Help us to choose love not fear,
to change ourselves and not the planet;
to act justly for the sake of the vulnerable;
and to make a difference today
for life tomorrow.

In your name - Father, Son and Spirit.
Amen.

(Martyn Goss)

A prayer in the face of climate change

*Jesus Christ,
tempted to turn stones to bread
in the wilderness:
teach us that when we change time
for our convenience:
night to day in our living,
patience to speed in our journeying,
winter to summer in our eating,
we change God's calendar which brings
the hatchling to the caterpillar,
the bee to the nectar,
the rains to the farmer;
to the one which brings you to the cross.*

*Give us grace in our simplest actions
to choose the life which breathes
in the beautiful complexity of creation,
to conquer death,
and to fit us to be Easter people. Amen
(Eleanor Todd)*

Prayers and Liturgies

I will light a light

A: I will light a light
In the name of the maker of light
Who lit the world with stars, sun and moon
And breathed the breath of life
Into all things.

B: I will light a light
In the name of the revealer of light
Who brought light into the darkness
And stretched out his hands for us
Giving his love to the whole world.

A: I will light a light
In the name of the inspirer of light
Who lit the world from within
And fills my life with wonder
In the search for learning and wisdom.

B: We hold these lights
**All : For the Trinity of light and love
God's presence everywhere
God's salvation for everyone
God's inspiration of all things.**

A: We hold these lights
**All : For ourselves and each other
For our families, friends and enemies
For our work, hopes and struggles.**

B: We hold these lights
**All : For those in need and those who teach us,
For the people, governments and churches of Europe
For the future peace and justice of Europe.**

A: We hold these lights
**All : For the whole world
For all things created, visible and invisible
For individuals and communities in need.**

B: We hold these lights to give thanks
**All : For water, air and soil
For plants, trees and animals
For minerals and fossils.**

A: We hold these lights to give thanks
**All : For knowledge, skills and ideas
For inventions and discoveries
For science and the arts.**

Our candles are lit and we pass this light amongst us as a sign of our commitment for the future.

All: May our footprint on this earth be light
May we discover the holiness of your presence everywhere
May we learn how to value your gifts without harm or waste
May we enrich the flourishing of beauty in the things we make and use. Amen.

(Robin Morrison)

Guide us as we gather

Guide us as we gather
Eternal God,
We thank you for the glory of your creation, a mystery that surpasses our knowledge.
Eternal God,
We thank you for the earth and water, sun and wind, creatures and people, nations and cultures.
Guide us as we gather to confess that we have violated the gift of life given to us.
Strengthen us as we seek to affirm that the earth and all therein is yours.
Enable us
As we seek to recall your covenant
And make it our own.
Amen.

(World Council of Churches)

Prayers and Liturgies

Walk lightly

Walk lightly.
Each leaf, each petal,
each grain, each person,
Sings your praises,
Creator God.
Each creature on the earth,
all the mountains and great seas,
show your glory,
Spirit of love.
And yet
the hand of greed
has patented and plundered
your splendour,
has taken and not shared
your gift,
has lived as owner of the earth,
not guest.
And so
the ice is cracked
the rivers dry,
the valleys flooded
and the snow caps melt.
God our Father,
show us how to step gently,
how to live simply,
how to walk lightly
with respect and love
for all that you have made.
Amen

(Linda Jones/CAFOD)

Praise be to the Holy Trinity!
Praise be to the Holy Trinity!
God is sound and life,
Creator of the Universe,
Source of all life, whom the angels sing;
wondrous Light of all mysteries
known or unknown to humankind,
and life that lives in all.
(Hildegard of Bingen, 13th Century)

Forgive us, Lord
Forgive us, Lord,
our obsession with ourselves.
We are not able to recognise our own
limits.
We are so concentrated
on our present needs and on our own
work
that we forget to be grateful
for the gifts You have given us
through the generations who have gone
before us.

(ECEN)

Time for God's creation

Forgive us, Lord,
for our closed horizon,
preventing us from looking towards tomorrow,
preventing us from handing over to our
children
a fertile and clean earth.
Forgive us, Lord,
for our greedy selfishness,
for our closed hands,
grasping to hoard all we can
to squeeze our natural resources dry.
Open our hands, Lord,
to the joy of sharing.
Teach them the sower's generous gesture,
so that we may sow seeds without caring
who will benefit from the fruits of the harvest.
Amen

(Luca M. Negro, ECEN)

Note:
ECEN is the European Christian
Environmental Network
www.ecen.org

Prayers and Liturgies

A prayer based on Psalm 24

*"The earth is the Lord's, and everything in it,
the world, and all who live in it;
for he founded it upon the seas
and established it upon the waters."*

Lord, your world is in danger.
The enemy is hiding behind vested interests and sceptics,
waiting to plunder and rape your earth.
We cry to you, Lord, protect your creation,
defend the work of your hands.
Save our generation from our addiction to fossil fuels.
Wash our hands of their clutch on dirty energy,
clean our hearts of our desire for more and more.
Turn our souls away from materialism
and our desires from taking and taking from your sacred, limited world.
Give us a vision of the blessings we will receive
if we turn away from idolatry of the economy and bow to wisdom and truth.
Let man and woman-kind see that true happiness rests in enjoying your Earth as you intended,
not according to the lies of the enemy.
Show us that a kinder and simpler lifestyle will allow us to see your glory more clearly.
Let your glory of the King of glory shine through your kingdom.

*"Lift up your heads, O you gates;
lift them up, you ancient doors,
that the King of glory may come in.
Who is he, this King of glory?
The Lord Almighty -
he is the King of glory."*

(Ruth Jarman)

Sending and blessing

Transform our lives.
May God who established the dance of
creation,
who marvelled at the lilies of the field,
who transforms chaos to order,
lead us to transform our lives and the
Church to reflect God's glory in
creation.

(CTBI Eco-Congregation Programme)

A prayer for our homes

*Jesus Christ;
in changing weather, vanishing species
and impoverished neighbours
the heavens and the earth bear witness against
us.
As you lit an Easter fire and cooked breakfast,
fashioning God's kingdom
from the stuff of this earth,
so when we cook and light and warm our home
make us people of your resurrection,
choosing life
through simplicity, ingenuity, and obedience.
Amen.*

(Eleanor Todd)

Prayers and Liturgies

A morning prayer

Show us how to do things well today,
so that others may not suffer,
here or there, now or in the future.
Show us how to make our contribution
as we change the way we live,
travel, make and consume,
pack and unpack,
use, misuse and re-use energy,
heating and lighting.
Show us how to do simple things
well in our home,
places of work and lifestyle choices.
Show us how to protect
the world you made,
in all its diversity and goodness,
from our carbon emissions,
global warming and climate change,
rising temperatures and sea levels,
the displacement of peoples,
environmental poverty,
harm and destruction.
Show us how and show us why,
so that alone and with others
our contribution will make a difference. Amen.

(Robin Morrison)

An evening prayer

Thank you for the passing day.
Forgive all that's been badly done,
for energy wasted, opportunities lost,
for things not said or not said well,
for the harm done,
unconsciously, if not deliberately,
through our lack of attention and care.
As we lift our gaze to look
through your eyes
on what has passed or is to come,
give, us of your grace,
another opportunity
to live well, find joy
and fulfilment in all things,
show respect and care for your gifts
in all of Creation and all people.
Amen.

(Robin Morrison)

We did not weave the web of life

The earth is the Lord's and all that is in it, the world, and those who live in it. (Psalm 24:1)

Leader Every part of this earth is sacred.
Whatever befalls the earth befalls the children of the earth.
This we know, the earth does not belong to us.

All We belong to the earth.

Leader This we know, all things are connected:

All Like the blood which unites one family.

Leader This we know, whatever we do to the web:

All We do to ourselves.

(ECEN 2004 Creation Time, Adapted from Chief Seattle, 19th Century)

God's light and love

**As the air sings with songs of glory,
as the water flashes with the silver of creation,
as the forests bloom with leaves for the healing of the nations,
so may God's light and love
fill our hearts and souls and minds.**

(CTBI Eco-Congregation Programme)

Penitential Rite**Leader:**

Giver of Life,
in the midst of a plundered earth
we groan with creation.

All: Have mercy on us.

Leader:

Giver of Life,
In the midst of poisoned water
we groan with creation.

All: Have mercy on us.

Leader:

Giver of Life,
in the midst of polluted air
we groan with creation.

All: Have mercy on us.

Leader:

Giver of Life,
in the midst of mountains of waste
we groan with creation.

All: Have mercy on us.

Leader:

Giver of Life,
in the midst of a world of war
we groan with creation.

All: Have mercy on us.

Leader:

Giver of Life,
we who are made in the image of God
have gone astray
and creation groans with us.

All: Have mercy on us.

*(from 'Worshipping Ecumenically',
ECEN booklet)*

May God bless us**Leader:**

*As we prepare to leave
and embrace the challenges
of our lives and our world,
let us ask for God's blessing.
May God bless us with wisdom
to care for the Earth.*

All: Amen

Leader:

*May God bless us with love
to bring forth new life.*

All: Amen

Leader:

*In the name of God
the Maker of the whole world,
of Jesus, our new covenant,
and of the holy Spirit,
who opens eyes and hearts.*

All: Amen

Leader: *Go in peace and be witnesses of hope.*

All: Amen

*(Second European Ecumenical
Assembly, Graz, 1997)*

Creating God

*Creating God,
You are the source of light and life,
So we praise you.
You became flesh to bring light and life,
So we praise you.
You sustain the world with your light and
life,
So we praise you.
(CTBI Eco-Congregation Programme)*

Prayers and Liturgies

Father, forgive us

Father forgive us, for we knew not what we did.

We, the children of God, cry aloud to you, Lord our God.

Free us from sin and guilt to be truly your people.

Free us to praise you and live in your way forever.

Father forgive us, for we knew not what we did.

Forests grew and died, and grew again, while under the Earth a treasure of fuel was laid.

Your people grew in skill and curiosity

and unearthed the secret carbon heritage of the forests.

We tamed fire in our engines to increase our comfort and mobility.

We have been tempted to take these benefits to ourselves,

to live a life where you could no longer find us.

Father forgive us, for we knew not what we did.

Creator of all, the hymn of creation has become the cry of the world.

Like Adam and Eve in the garden, we hide ourselves in shame.

Yet, just as you came to them and asked them lovingly, 'Where are you?'

so you come to us today and lovingly ask us, 'Where are you?'

We are here Lord, seeing ourselves as the centre of your world,

and blind to the fact that you are the centre of all your creation.

Father forgive us, for we knew not what we did.

We are here, Lord, destroying in a few years the mighty works of aeons,
so that we may be comfortable as we prepare catastrophe.

We are here Lord, exposing the poor to a fragile future,

threatening the livelihoods of our children,

and driving animals and plant life to extinction.

Father forgive us, for we knew not what we did.

Now we know.

Hear our cry for help to change our ways.

Creator of the mighty trees, the broad oceans,

the atmosphere, the earth, and all that lives,

forgive us and reconcile us to you.

Let us remake this world in the love and compassion of

the One who makes all things new,

who is the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End.

We, the children of God,

cry aloud to you, Lord our God.

Restore, reconcile and re-equip us

to live in harmony with all creation,

and to be signs to each other and to the world

of your kingdom come on Earth.

*(Written for Operation Noah launch, Coventry Cathedral 2004, based on
'Creation Festival Liturgy' at Coventry Cathedral in 1988.)*

Prayers and Liturgies

A selection of short prayers

*From: A Call for Climate Justice,
US Bishops' Conference*

Creator of life's beauty, majesty and mystery, we thank you for the gift of life – ours and those of all your creation. Teach us what it means to be human, and show us our role on this beautiful gift of Earth. Grant that we may embrace our role with both conviction and humility. **Amen.**

Creator of the universe, thank you for this opportunity to be together. Thank you for the gift of another day. Remind us of our day-to-day dependence on your creation. May we learn from our own lives, from each other, and from your presence among us. **Amen.**

Thank you for the gift of life. You open your hand and satisfy the desire of every living thing, giving them their food in due season. We thank you for sustaining such a rich and bountiful Earth, our home. Encourage us in our assumption of appropriate responsibility in its care. Grant us continued gratitude at the richness you provide. **Amen.**

Creator, this is such a beautiful world, both fragile and resilient. Forgive us when we act as if this world belongs to us, rather than to you. May our desire to love all of life grow; may our ability to act lovingly towards all of life grow. Thank you for these people and this time together. Help us continue to support one another in our journeys; use us to bring about a world that is more compassionate and just, where all people and all creation enjoy and share in life's bounty. **Amen.**

We belong to the Creator

Leader:

We belong to the Creator
in whose image we are all made.

All:

**In God we are breathing,
in God we are living,
in God we share the life of all creation.**

Leader:

We belong to Jesus Christ,
the true icon of God and of humanity.

All:

**In him God is breathing,
in him God is living,
through him we are reconciled.**

Leader:

We belong to the Holy Spirit,
who gives us new life
and strengthens our faith.

All:

**In the Spirit love is breathing,
in the Spirit truth is living,
the breath of God always moves us.**

Leader:

We belong to the Holy Trinity,
who is one in all and Three-in-One.

All:

**In God we are all made,
in Christ we are all saved,
in the Spirit we are all united.**

(Per Harling, ECEN booklet)

Reconciling all things

Glory be to you O Christ, Saviour of the world.
To you all creatures bow in awe and praise and thanksgiving.
You reconcile all things on earth and heaven.
Your loving presence fills the whole universe.
Grant us power to grasp how wide and long
and high and deep is the love of Christ.

Alleluia

Glory be to you O Christ - Saviour of the world.
Teach us to use our civilisation's collective learning in your service.
You taught your disciples to live simply, yet joyfully together.
You formed their thinking through your stories and example.
Grant us power to use our intellects with wisdom
to cut our use of energy and live more simply,
and to share our technology and resources
in humility and love with all God's children.

Alleluia, alleluia!

Glory be to you O Christ - Saviour of the world.
As God's Word you were there at the beginning of space and time,
when energy pulsed through matter
when the sun's rays lightened the darkness
when the seas and rivers first flowed
and the winds rushed over the face of the oceans.
Grant us power to share and use this energy wisely.

Alleluia, alleluia!

(Operation Noah Launch, Coventry Cathedral, 2004)

May none of God's wonderful works keep silence

May none of God's wonderful works keep silence,
night or morning.
Bright stars, high mountains, the depths of the seas,
sources of rushing rivers:
may all these break into song as we sing
to Father, Son and Holy Spirit.
May all the angels in the heavens reply: Amen! Amen! Amen!
Power, praise, honour, eternal glory to God, the only
Giver of grace. Amen! Amen! Amen!
(Third-century hymn)

Prayer of Commitment

Oceans warming
 Coral dying
 Sea rising
 Land disappearing
 Ice caps melting
 Polar bears dying
 Rivers flooding
 Waters overwhelming

***Calming, caring God,
 Help us act to still the storm
 For now, for ever.***

Storms destroying
 Chaos reigning
 Cities flooding
 People moving
 Disease spreading
 Homes disappearing
 Crops failing
 Hope fading

***Calming, caring God,
 Help us act to still the storm
 For now, for ever.***

Planet shaping
 World creating
 Life forming
 Spirit breathing
 Law guiding
 Cradle birthing
 Cross bearing
 Hope rising

***Calming, caring God,
 Help us act to still the storm
 For now, for ever.***

*(Climate Service, Grosvenor
 Chapel, London, 2006)*

We use more than what is ours

We use more than what is ours
 O God, we use more than what is ours.
 Therefore your creation is suffering.
 We consume the resources of the earth
 at the expense of the poor and the
 oppressed.
 We are prisoners of consumption
 and we confess that we do not want to get
 out of our captivity.
 We seek security by possession.
 We steal from those coming after us.
 We know that the earth is fragile, but this
 knowledge paralyses us.
 We confess that passivity suits us
 and that we do not want to get out of it.
 We acknowledge that we often know the
 truth,
 but we do not want to know it.
 As we do not want to commit ourselves
 our proclamations are not credible.
 As we do not want to be a part of a change
 others have to live in despair.
 As we do not want to pay for the costs for
 a new way of living,
 others have to pay with their lives.
 We hope for unity, but we do not act.
 We honour the ideals of compassion and
 love,
 but we do not follow them.
 God, we confess that we take pleasure in
 confessing
 without breaking away from our sins.
 "Out of the depths, I cry to you, O God,
 Lord, hear my cry".

*(Prayer from the Church of Norway,
 ECEN booklet)*

Come light, light of God,

**Come light, light of God, give light to creation,
enlighten our hearts and remain with your world.**

O God, Creator of the universe and of all that lives and breathes,
from your dwelling place you refresh the mountains and forests.

The earth is filled with the fruits of your work.

You make grass grow for the herds,
plants and fruit trees for people to farm,
drawing their bread from the earth.

You entrusted your creation to us. We beseech you:
save us from the temptation of power and domination.

May your Spirit of wisdom teach us
how best to care for and safeguard what you entrust to us.
Blow your Spirit of life on your creation and all humanity.

**Come light, light of God, give light to creation,
enlighten our hearts and remain with your world.**

We beseech you, bless every effort and every search,
every struggle and every pain that seek to restore
the harmony and beauty of your Creation.

Renew the face of the earth, so that every human being
may live in peace and justice, fruits of your Spirit of love.
Blow your Spirit of life on your creation and all humanity.

**Come light, light of God, give light to creation,
enlighten our hearts and remain with your world.**

We beseech you, Lord,
bless the fruits of the earth and the work of our hands
and teach us to share the abundance of your goods.
Send rain to the dry soil, sun and fair weather
where harvest is endangered by storms.
Blow your Spirit of life on your creation and all humanity.

**Come light, light of God, give light to creation,
enlighten our hearts and remain with your world.**

From you, O Lord our God, come all gifts, and we give you thanks.
Hear the sigh raising from your creation,
gather the suffering of all people.

Send us your blessing, so that we may live, in its fullness, the new life
which you offer us through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

(Community of Grandchamp, Switzerland; translated by Elizabeth Stace)

Prayers and Liturgies

Thanksgiving

An all-age prayer. During the prayer, people could hold up the appropriate colours of cloth around the worship area.

God

What a fabulous colour green is
every shade
tucked into every plant
every blade of grass
every leaf
subtly different
a million billion shades of the one colour
like touching fresh flowing water
or the smell of summer morning.

And God of blue

What a big colour that is
stretching for a thousand acres above us
like the touch of cool
or the smell of snow.

And red God

of petal and beach tree
of rock and earth
of blood and fruit
of berry and bird
like the touch of soft warmth
and the smell of apple pie.

And God of caramel

and chocolate
and amethyst
and butterscotch
and gold
and orange
and sunset
and leaf
and beach
and earth
and grain
and skin
the touch and the smell of life.

And God of purple
rare
royal
sacred
special
deep
flowing
like the smell of ancient churches
and the touch to love.

How big is your imagination O God
how fabulous your tartan
how warm your smell
how colourful your laughter
how wildly wonderful your world

Thanks!

(Roddy Hamilton)

Bless, O Lord, the fruit of the land

**Bless, O Lord
the plants, the vegetation, and
the herbs of the field,
that they may grow and
increase to fullness
and bear much fruit.
And may the fruit of the land
remind us
of the spiritual fruit we are to
bear.**

(Coptic Orthodox liturgy, Egypt)

Grant us power

All: Grant us power to use our intellects with wisdom,
to cut our use of energy and live more simply,
and to share our technology and resources
in humility and love with all God's children.

Leader:

*Glory be to you O Christ – Saviour of the world.
As God's Word you were there at the beginning of space and time,
when energy pulsated through matter
when the sun's rays lightened the darkness
when the seas and rivers first flowed
and the winds rushed over the face of the oceans.*

All: Grant us power to share and use this energy wisely,
And freedom to yield our wealth to you.

Leader:

*Go forth now to care for God's world.
Use energy wisely. Share your knowledge.
Sacrifice where necessary. Live in harmony with all creation.
Go out into all the world as prophets of a new way of living
and preach the good news to all creation.
And the blessing of God Almighty, Father, Son and Holy Spirit,
Be with us all now and always.*

All: Amen.

(Prayers for the Planet, Hinde Street Methodist Church, London, December 2005)

Commissioning and blessing

In the seas and the rain, God bestowed on Earth the gift of water,
so that his creation could flourish into life.

(Sprinkling of water)

Through the waters of baptism, God beckons us to a new creation,
so that we may share in a life beyond life.

Today, by water also, including this water here,
may the Covenant which we have made be sealed,
and creation renewed and restored to God's eternal purposes.

Go forth now to care for God's world.

Go out into all the world as heralds of a new rainbow covenant
and preach the good news to all creation.

And the blessing of God Almighty, Father, Son and Holy Spirit,
be with you all now and always.

Amen.

(Operation Noah Launch, Coventry Cathedral, 2004)

Prayers and Liturgies

Service of prayer and reflection

Opening responses

Leader: O God who called all life into being

All: The earth, sea and sky are yours

Leader: Your presence is all around us,

All: Every atom is full of your energy

Leader: Your Spirit enlivens all who walk the earth

All: With her we yearn for justice to be done

Leader: For creation to be freed from bondage

All: For the hungry to be fed

Leader: For captives to be released

All: For your Kingdom of peace to come on earth

Prayer of confession

O God, gladly we live and move and have our being in you.

Yet always in the midst of this creation-glory,

We see sin's shadow and feel death's darkness:

Around us in the earth, sea and sky, the abuse of matter;

Beside us in the broken, the hungry and the poor,

The betrayal of one another;

And often, deep within us, a striving against your Spirit.

O Trinity of Love,

Forgive us that we may forgive one another,

Heal us that we may be people of healing,

And renew us that we may also be makers of peace. Amen.

Reflection and commitment

Leader: In the beginning there was nothing.

Nothing that you had done.

Nothing that you hadn't done.

Everything depended on your
decision to do something.

And we are made in your image.

All: Morning comes and evening comes.

Thank you for each day.

(An icon of the globe is placed on the altar)

Leader: In the beginning you put darkness in its place.

You opted for light,

And therefore for hope and honesty.

You refused to be content with half-truths and shadows.

And we are made in your image.

All: Morning comes and evening comes.

Thank you for each day.

(A candle is placed on the altar, and lit)

Leader: In the beginning you made distinctions.

Sun and moon, earth and sky, land and sea:

Each with its purpose

To complement the others.

You made differences part of the picture,

Prayers and Liturgies

The roots, not the rebels, of harmony.
And we are made in your image.
**All: Morning comes and evening comes.
Thank you for each day.**
(Icons of animal and vegetable life are placed on the altar)

Leader: In the beginning you made a balance.
A whole creation, each part good,
Each part needing the other.
You made care, nurture and good stewardship
To be written through the fabric of all
You have made.
And we are made in your image.

**All: Morning comes and evening comes.
Thank you for each day.**
(An icon of a piece of coal is placed on the altar)

Leader: In the beginning you made me.
And all of us.
Part of your whole, good, interdependent creation.
Not that you needed to;
Not that we asked you to.
And you called us to you.
And being us, we said
'Tomorrow Lord, tomorrow we will come.'
So you gave us a tomorrow,
Which is today...

**All: Morning comes and evening comes.
Thank you for each day.**

Closing responses

Leader: From where we are to where you need us

All: Jesus, now lead on

Leader: From the security of what we know to the adventure of what you will reveal

All: Jesus, now lead on

Leader: To refashion the fabric of this world until it resembles the shape of your Kingdom

All: Jesus, now lead on

Leader: Because good things have been prepared for those who love God

All: Jesus, now lead on

Blessing

May the God who shakes heaven and earth,
Whom death could not contain,
Who lives to disturb and to heal us,
Bless us with power to go forth and proclaim the Gospel. **Amen.**

(Service at St. Matthew's Church, Westminster, preceding a Global Day of Action on Climate, December 2007. Most of the service is based on Iona Community/WGRG texts © WGRG & Iona Community. Used with permission.)

Prayers and Liturgies

God of all,

God of all,
Creator beyond time,
we think of the flow of seasons and generations that is our home.

We remember those who have lived before us:
those whose explorations have left us gifts of knowledge and expertise,
those whose hard work has been the foundation of our prosperity,
those whose sacrifices have become the stuff of our legends,
those whose faithfulness has challenged our ambivalence.

We dream of those who will live long after we have gone:
the great, great grandchildren who will know us as ancient pictures,
the generations of every nation who will trace history back to us,
the people who will shape the world, in part,
upon the lessons we demonstrated,
the believers who will know you, a little, through our testimony.

Past and future meet in our presence.
So we pray for ourselves and those of our generation:
that we will hand on a world
worthy of humanity and of you, eternal God,
that we will measure our treatment of creation
against the needs of those unborn,
that we will treasure our world and protect it from ourselves,
that we will be so inspired by your Spirit
that our work will bear distant fruit.

And to you, eternal and intimate God,
be all glory, praise and honour,
as it was in the beginning,
is now,
and forever shall be,
world without end.

Amen.

*(Neil Thorogood, from 'What a World', edited by Geoffrey Duncan
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