

Mount Eliza Anglican Church
A Service of Prayer for Spring

Preparation

O Lord, open our lips
and our mouth shall proclaim your praise.

Opening Prayer

After stagnant days, things begin to stir. All things grow. Green shoots appear. Buds open. On this day, may I be grounded, like the earth; may I be real, like the elements; may I be true, like the fire; may I be free, like the wind; may the love that is within me flow, like water; and may I not forget the flowers. Dear God, give me fragrance in my relationships.ⁱ

Prayer of Confession

God our Father,
we are sorry
for the times when we have used your gifts carelessly,
and acted ungratefully.
Hear our prayer, and in your mercy:
forgive us and help us.
We enjoy the fruits of the harvest,
but sometimes forget that you have given them to us.
Father, in your mercy:
forgive us and help us.
We belong to a people who are full and satisfied,
but ignore the cry of the hungry.
Father, in your mercy:
forgive us and help us.
We are thoughtless,
and do not care enough for the world you have made.
Father, in your mercy:
forgive us and help us.
We store up goods for ourselves alone,
as if there were no God and no heaven.
Father, in your mercy:
forgive us and help us.

May God who loved the world so much that he sent his Son to be our Saviour
forgive *us our* sins and make *us* holy to serve him in the world,
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.ⁱⁱ

Prayer of the day

God of unchangeable power, when you fashioned the world the morning stars sang together, and the host of heaven shouted for joy; open our eyes to the wonder of creation and teach us to use all things for good, to the honour of your glorious name; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.ⁱⁱⁱ

Reading - Matthew 6:28-29

Jesus said, 'And why do you worry about clothing? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow; they neither toil nor spin, yet I tell you, even Solomon in all his glory was not clothed like one of these.'

Prayers for God's Creation

Creator of All,

We are grateful that from your communion of love you created our planet to be a home for all. By your Holy Wisdom you made the Earth to bring forth a diversity of living beings that filled the soil, water, and air. Each part of creation praises you in their being, and cares for one another from our place in the web of life.

With the Psalmist, we sing your praise that in your house "even the sparrow finds a home, and the swallow a nest for herself, where she may lay her young."

We remember that you call human beings to keep your garden in ways that honour the dignity of each creature and conserve their place in the abundance of life on Earth.

But we know that our will to power pushes the planet beyond her limits. Our consumption is out of harmony and rhythm with Earth's capacity to heal herself.

Habitats are left barren or lost. Species are lost and systems fail. Where reefs and burrows, mountaintops and ocean deeps once teemed with life and relationships, wet and dry deserts lie empty, as if uncreated. Human families are displaced by insecurity and conflict, migrating in search of peace. Animals flee fires, deforestation, and famine, wandering in search of a new place to find a home to lay their young and live.

In this Season of Creation, we pray that the breath of your creative Word would move our hearts, as in the waters of our birth and baptism. Give us faith to follow Christ to our just place in the beloved community. Enlighten us with the grace to respond to your covenant and call to care for our common home. In our tilling and keeping, gladden our hearts to know that we participate with your Holy Spirit to renew the face of your Earth, and safeguard a home for all.

In the name of the One who came to proclaim good news to all creation, Jesus Christ. Amen.^{iv}

The Lord's Prayer

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.
Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours
now and for ever. Amen.

The Conclusion

May Christ, who is human and divine, who is of heaven and also of earth, lift up your hearts, lift up your lives to God, and the blessing of God our Creator, Redeemer and Giver of life be with you always.
Amen.^v

ⁱ The Celtic Prayer Book Vol 3 (Kevin Mayhew, 2004) p303

ⁱⁱ <https://www.churchofengland.org/prayer-and-worship/worship-texts-and-resources/common-worship/common-material/new-patterns-12>

ⁱⁱⁱ New Zealand Prayer Book (Genesis Publications, 1989) p569

^{iv} <https://seasonofcreation.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/05/2021-SOC-Prayer.pdf>

^v New Zealand Prayer Book (Genesis Publications, 1989) p540