

Daily Prayer

for the

Season

of

Creation

Daily Prayer for the Season of Creation

The doctrine of Creation is fundamental to our Christian faith: that God whom we worship made the universe and gave life to all that inhabits it, that the earth and the creatures with whom we share it are to be respected as part of God's creative work, and that God is sovereign over all creation. The created order is therefore God's, and to be revered and cherished as God's work. The Judaeo-Christian conviction that humanity is created in the image of God, rooted in the creation narrative with which our Scriptures open, does not diminish the standing of other created beings before God. It does, however, mean that we human beings have particular a responsibility among the creatures to worship God and to care for God's creation.

The word that is often used of the distinctive role of human beings in creation is stewardship, a term we need to understand very clearly. The Genesis narrative speaks of a divine injunction to subdue the earth, exercising dominion over the animals. Human cultures have developed ways in which land and resources may be controlled, usually in the interests of power as well as of survival, and in Christian societies the exploitation of animals and plants, and of less powerful human beings, has been justified on the basis of an imputed divine order which has subordinated some creatures to others, to the point that people, as well as animals and plants, have been looked upon as the property of fellow creatures and fellow human beings. This attitude, and the exploitative practices it has engendered, has contributed directly not only to injustice in human societies, but also to the global ecological crisis we are facing. Nowhere in the creation narrative, nor anywhere else in Scripture, does God relinquish sovereignty. This sovereignty is exercised in judgement upon sinful humanity, not least for our failings as stewards of creation, as well as in salvation through the death and resurrection of Christ. Stewardship involves the care for that which belongs to another, in this case to God, and can never belong to us. Several stories and discourses in the Prophets and in the Gospels recount the consequences of stewards' abusing their power and privilege, and there are accounts too of tenants who come under judgement for defying the sovereignty of God.

John Zizioulas, a Greek Orthodox bishop and theologian who was for several years Professor of Theology at Glasgow University, speaks of human beings as "priests of creation", whose task is not merely to hold in communion people or churches, but all creation. Similarly, Pope Francis in *Laudato Si'* speaks of "universal communion". Human responsibility for the harmony of creation is enduring, requiring our continuous commitment to living so that all God's creatures may flourish. The Revelation to John speaks of the Church at worship as a kingdom of priests, and this imagery is reflected also in the first Letter of Peter. The corporate priesthood exercised in worship cannot be distinguished from that in which human beings discharge the first obligation imparted to them in Scripture: the care of creation. It is therefore as a community of stewards of God's world, holding together in an ecological harmony all God's earthly creatures, that we join in offering God worship in which we renew our commitment to the reverent care of God's creation.

The Season of Creation begins on the first Sunday of September, and concludes four weeks later with Thanksgiving for Harvest. Propers for Morning and Evening Prayer for the four weeks and five Sundays are provided here, following the format of Daily Prayer (1990, revised 2006). Specific themes and Collects are not allocated to each Sunday or week at present. Readings are as for the Week in Ordinary Time in the Calendar and Lectionary, and Collects are provided at the end of this volume.

Morning Prayer

Week 1

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

Glory to the Father and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit;*
as it was in the beginning, is now, and shall be for ever. Amen.

or

Glory to God, source of all being, eternal Word, and Holy Spirit;*
as it was in the beginning, is now, and shall be for ever. Amen.

PSALMODY

Antiphon: In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth
And it was very good. (Genesis 1:1, 31)

Opening: In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God,
and the Word was God.
**All things came into being through the Word,
and without the Word not one thing came into being.**
What has come into being in him was life,
and the life was the light of all people.
The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.
(John 1:1-5)

Variable Psalms: Sundays 149
 Mondays 85
 Tuesdays 104:1-23
 Wednesdays 24
 Thursdays 98
 Fridays 139
 Saturdays 8

Conclusion: Ask the animals, and they will teach you;
the birds of the air, and they will tell you;
**Ask the plants of the earth, and they will teach you;
the fish of the sea will declare to you.**
Who among all these does not know that the hand of the Lord has done this?
**In his hand is the life of every living thing
and the breath of every human being.** (Job 12:7-10)

Antiphon: In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth
And it was very good. (Genesis 1:1, 31)

READING(S)

Silence

Response: O Lord, our Sovereign, how majestic is your name in all the earth!
O Lord, our Sovereign, how majestic is your name in all the earth!
You have set your glory above the heavens.
How majestic is your name in all the earth!
Glory to God, Source of all Being, Eternal Word and Holy Spirit.
O Lord, our Sovereign, how majestic is your name in all the earth!
(Psalm 8)

Benedictus Antiphon: Through God all things were made.
Without Christ nothing was made that has been made. (John 1:3)

Benedictus and Prayers, p. 19

Week 2

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

Glory to the Father and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit;*
as it was in the beginning, is now, and shall be for ever. Amen.

or

Glory to God, source of all being, eternal Word, and Holy Spirit;*
as it was in the beginning, is now, and shall be for ever. Amen.

PSALMODY

Antiphon: O God, you created the heavens and spread out the earth
**You gave breath to all people
and spirit to everything which walks on the earth.** (Isaiah 42:5)

Opening: The Lord is a great God, and a sovereign above all gods.
**In God's hand are the depths of the earth;
the heights of the mountains are God's also.**
The sea is God's, for God made it, and God's hand formed the dry land.
**O come, let us worship and bow down,
let us kneel before the Lord, our Maker!** (Psalm 95:3-6)

Variable Psalms:

Sundays	149
Mondays	85
Tuesdays	104:1-23
Wednesdays	24
Thursdays	98
Fridays	139
Saturdays	8

Conclusion: The Lord, God of hosts, touches the earth and it melts,
and all who live in it mourn.
And all of it rises like the Nile, and sinks again, like the Nile of Egypt;
The Lord builds upper chambers in the heavens,
and founds vault upon the earth;
**And calls for the waters of the sea,
and pours them out upon the surface of the earth.** (Amos 9:5-6)

Antiphon: O God, you created the heavens and spread out the earth
**You gave breath to all people
and spirit to everything which walks on the earth.** (Isaiah 42:5)

READING(S)

Silence

Response: By your wisdom, O Lord, you founded the earth and established the heavens;
**By your wisdom, O Lord,
you founded the earth and established the heavens;**
By your knowledge the deeps broke open.
You founded the earth and established the heavens;
Glory to God, Source of all Being, Eternal Word and Holy Spirit.
**By your wisdom, O Lord,
you founded the earth and established the heavens.** (Proverbs 3:19-20)

Benedictus Antiphon: God's hand laid the foundation of the earth.
God's right hand spread out the heavens. (Isaiah 48:13)

Benedictus and Prayers, p. 19

Week 3

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

Glory to the Father and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit;*
as it was in the beginning, is now, and shall be for ever. Amen.

or

Glory to God, source of all being, eternal Word, and Holy Spirit;*
as it was in the beginning, is now, and shall be for ever. Amen.

PSALMODY

Antiphon: O the depth of the riches and wisdom and knowledge of God!
From whom and through whom and to whom are all things.
To God be the glory for ever. Amen. (Romans 11:33,36)

Opening: The earth is the Lord's and all that is in it,
the world, and those who live in it;
For God has founded it on the seas,
and established it on the rivers.
Who shall ascend the hill of the Lord?
And who shall stand in God's holy place?
Those who have clean hands and pure hearts,
who do not lift up their souls to what is false,
and do not swear deceitfully. (Psalm 24:1-4)

Variable Psalms: Sundays 149
 Mondays 85
 Tuesdays 104:1-23
 Wednesdays 24
 Thursdays 98
 Fridays 139
 Saturdays 8

Conclusion: The earth dries up and withers, the world languishes and withers;
the heavens languish together with the earth.
The earth lies polluted
under its inhabitants;
For they have transgressed laws, violated the statutes,
broken the everlasting covenant.
Therefore a curse devours the earth,
and its inhabitants suffer for their guilt.
Therefore the inhabitants of the earth dwindled, and few people are left.
The wine dries up, the vine languishes,
all the merry-hearted sigh. (Isaiah 24:4-7)

Antiphon: O the depth of the riches and wisdom and knowledge of God!
From whom and through whom and to whom are all things.
To God be the glory for ever. Amen. (Romans 11:33,36)

READING(S)

Silence

Response: Creation waits in hope for God's children to be revealed.
Creation waits in hope for God's children to be revealed.
That Creation may be set free from its bondage to decay.
For God's children to be revealed.
Glory to God, Source of all Being, Eternal Word and Holy Spirit.
Creation waits in hope for God's children to be revealed. (Romans 8:19-21)

Benedictus Antiphon: Let the heavens be glad, and let the earth rejoice;
Then shall all the trees of the forest sing for joy. (Psalm 96:11-12)

Benedictus and Prayers, p. 19

Week 4

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

Glory to the Father and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit;*
as it was in the beginning, is now, and shall be for ever. Amen.

or

Glory to God, source of all being, eternal Word, and Holy Spirit;*
as it was in the beginning, is now, and shall be for ever. Amen.

PSALMODY

Antiphon: The tree of life produces fruit each month
And the leaves of the tree are for healing of nations. (Revelation 22:2)

Opening: To whom then will you compare me,
or who is my equal? says the Holy One.
**Lift up your eyes on high and see:
Who created these?**
God who brings out their host and numbers them,
calling them all by name;
**God is great in strength,
mighty in power, and not one is missing.**
Why do you say, O Jacob, and speak, O Israel,
**'My way is hidden from the Lord,
and my right is disregarded by my God?'**
Have you not known? Have you not heard?
**The Lord is the everlasting God,
the Creator of the ends of the earth.** (Isaiah 40:26-28)

Variable Psalms: Sundays 149
 Mondays 85
 Tuesdays 104:1-23
 Wednesdays 24
 Thursdays 98
 Fridays 139
 Saturdays 8

Conclusion: I heard a loud voice from the throne saying,
'See, the home of God is among mortals.
God will dwell with them, they will be God's peoples,
And God will be with them, and will wipe every tear from their eyes.
**Death will be no more;
mourning and crying and pain will be no more,
for the first things have passed away.'**
And the one who was seated on the throne said,
'See, I am making all things new.' (Revelation 21:3-5)

Antiphon: The tree of life produces fruit each month
and the leaves of the tree are for the healing of the nations.
(Revelation 22:2)

READING(S)

Silence

Response: In the wilderness prepare the way of the Lord,
In the wilderness prepare the way of the Lord,
Make straight in the desert a highway for our God.
Prepare the way of the Lord,
Glory to God, Source of all Being, Eternal Word and Holy Spirit.
In the wilderness prepare the way of the Lord. (Isaiah 40:3)

Benedictus Antiphon: O Lord God, you made the heavens and the earth
by your great power and by your outstretched arm!
Nothing is too hard for you. (Jeremiah 32:17)

Benedictus and Prayers, p. 19

Evening Prayer

Week 1

O God, make speed to save us.

O Lord, make haste to help us.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit;*

As it was in the beginning, is now, and shall before ever. Amen.

or

Glory to God, source of all being, eternal Word, and Holy Spirit;*

As it was in the beginning, is,, and shall be for ever. Amen.

PSALMODY

Antiphon:

Christ is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation

All things have been created through Christ and for Christ.

(Colossians 1:15,16)

Opening:

In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth,

the earth was a formless void and darkness covered the face of the deep.

God said, 'Let there be light'; and there was light.

God said, 'Let there be a dome in the midst of the waters, and let it separate the waters from the waters.' And it was so.

God said, 'Let the waters under the sky be gathered together into one place, and let the dry land appear.' And it was so.

God said, 'Let there be lights in the dome of the sky to separate the day from the night; and let them be for signs and for seasons and for days and years, and let them be lights in the dome of the sky to give light upon the earth.' And it was so.

God said, 'Let the waters bring forth swarms of living creatures, and let birds fly above the earth across the dome of the sky.' And it was so.

God said, 'Let the earth bring forth living creatures of every kind: cattle and creeping things and wild animals of the earth of every kind.'

And it was so.

God said, 'Let us make humankind in our image, according to our likeness. And it was so, and God blessed them.

God saw everything that he had made, and indeed, it was very good.

(Genesis 1)

Variable Psalms:

Sundays 100

Mondays 19

Tuesdays 104:24-35

Wednesdays 46

Thursdays 107:33-43

Fridays 51

Saturdays 1

Conclusion: All you Works of the Lord, bless the Lord :
Benedicite praise and magnify God for ever.
O Waters above the Firmament, bless the Lord :
praise and magnify God for ever.
O Sun and Moon, bless the Lord :
praise and magnify God for ever.
O Stars of Heaven, bless the Lord :
praise and magnify God for ever.
Glory to God, Source of All Being, Eternal Word and Holy Spirit
As it was in the beginning is now, and shall be forever, Amen.

Antiphon: Christ is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation
All things have been created through Christ and for Christ.
(Colossians 1:15,16)

READING(S)

Silence

Response: Through God all things were made.
Through God all things were made.
What has come into being in God was life
All things were made.
Glory to God, Source of all Being, Eternal Word and Holy Spirit.
Through God all things were made. (John 1)

Magnificat Antiphon: The heavens declare the glory of God;
and the firmament proclaims God's handiwork. (Psalm 19:1)

Magnificat and Prayers, p. 20

Week 2

O God, make speed to save us.

O Lord, make haste to help us.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit;*

As it was in the beginning, is now, and shall before ever. Amen.

or

Glory to God, source of all being, eternal Word, and Holy Spirit;*

As it was in the beginning, is,, and shall be for ever. Amen.

PSALMODY

Antiphon: By faith we understand that the world was created by the word of God,
all that is seen was made from things that are not visible. (Hebrews 11:3)

Opening: For thus says the Lord, who created the heavens
Who formed the earth and made it.
Who did not create it a chaos,
but formed it to be inhabited.
I am the Lord, and there is no other.
I did not speak in secret, in a land of darkness;
I the Lord speak the truth, I declare what is right.
Turn to me and be saved, all the ends of the earth!
For I am God, and there is no other.
From my mouth has gone forth in righteousness, a word that shall not return:
**'To me every knee shall bow,
every tongue shall swear.'** (Isaiah 45:18-24)

Variable Psalms:

Sundays	100
Mondays	19
Tuesdays	104:24-35
Wednesdays	46
Thursdays	107:33-43
Fridays	51
Saturdays	1

Conclusion: All you Works of the Lord, bless the Lord :
Benedicite praise and magnify God for ever.
**O Showers and Dew, bless the Lord :
praise and magnify God for ever.**
O Winds of God, bless the Lord :
praise and magnify God for ever.
**O Fire and Heat, bless the Lord :
praise and magnify God for ever.**
O Winter and Summer, bless the Lord :
praise and magnify God for ever.
**O Frost and Cold, bless the Lord :
praise and magnify God for ever.**

Glory to God, Source of All Being, Eternal Word and Holy Spirit.
As it was in the beginning is now, and shall be forever, Amen.

Antiphon: By faith we understand that the world was created by the word of God,
all that is seen was made from things that are not visible. (Hebrews 11:3)

READING(S)

Silence

Response: By the word of the Lord the heavens were made.
By God's breath the heavens were made.
Glory to God, Source of all Being, Eternal Word and Holy Spirit.
By the word of the Lord, the heavens were made. (Psalm 33:6)

Magnificat Antiphon: Send forth your Spirit O Lord
And renew the face of the Earth. (Psalm 104:1)

Magnificat and Prayers, p. 20

Week 3

O God, make speed to save us.

O Lord, make haste to help us.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit;*

As it was in the beginning, is now, and shall before ever. Amen.

or

Glory to God, source of all being, eternal Word, and Holy Spirit;*

As it was in the beginning, is,, and shall be for ever. Amen.

PSALMODY

Antiphon: Creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the children of God
In hope, creation will be set free. (Romans 8:19-21)

Opening: The heavens are telling the glory of God;
and the firmament proclaims his handiwork.
**Day to day pours forth speech,
and night to night declares knowledge.**
There is no speech, nor are there words;
their voice is not heard;
**Yet their voice goes out through all the earth,
and their words to the end of the world.** (Psalm 19:1-4)

Variable Psalms:

Sundays	100
Mondays	19
Tuesdays	104:24-35
Wednesdays	46
Thursdays	107:33-43
Fridays	51
Saturdays	1

Conclusion: All you Works of the Lord, bless the Lord :
praise and magnify God for ever.
**O Ice and Snow, bless the Lord :
praise and magnify God for ever.**
O Nights and Days, bless the Lord :
praise and magnify God for ever.
**O Light and Darkness, bless the Lord :
praise and magnify God for ever.**
O Lightnings and Clouds, bless the Lord :
praise and magnify God for ever.
**O Mountains and Hills, bless the Lord :
praise and magnify God for ever.**
Glory to God, Source of All Being, Eternal Word and Holy Spirit.
As it was in the beginning is now, and shall be forever, Amen.

Antiphon: Creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the children of God
In hope, creation will be set free. (Romans 8:19-21)

READING(S)

Silence

Response: God's eternal power and divine nature,
is understood and seen through the things God has made.
All that is visible and invisible
is understood and seen through the things God has made.
Glory to God, Source of all Being, Eternal Word and Holy Spirit.
God's eternal power and divine nature,
is understood and seen through the things God has made. (Romans 1:20)

Magnificat Antiphon: As the rain and the snow come down from heaven
and do not return until they have watered the earth;
So shall my word not return to me empty, says the Lord. (Isaiah 50:10-11)

Magnificat and Prayers, p. 20

O all Birds of the Air, bless the Lord :
praise and magnify God for ever.

**O all Beasts and Cattle, bless the Lord :
praise and magnify God for ever.**

Glory to God, Source of All Being, Eternal Word and Holy Spirit.

As it was in the beginning is now, and shall be forever, Amen.

Antiphon: The earth will be full of the knowledge of the Lord
As the waters cover the sea. (Isaiah 11:9)

READING(S)

Silence

Response: O Lord, in wisdom you have made all that is
the earth is full of your creatures.
**All living things both small and great
the earth is full of your creatures.**
Glory to God, Source of all Being, Eternal Word and Holy Spirit.
**O Lord, in wisdom you have made all that is,
the earth is full of your creatures.** (Psalm 104:24)

Magnificat Antiphon: I lift up my eyes to the hills, from where will my help come?
My help comes from the Lord, who made heaven and earth.
(Psalm 121:1-2)

Magnificat and Prayers, p. 20

BENEDICTUS

1 Blessed be the Lord the God of Israel,* for he has come to his people and set them free.
2 He has raised up for us a mighty saviour,* born of the house of his servant David.
3 Through his holy prophets he promised of old* that he would save us from our enemies,
from the hands of all that hate us.
4 He promised to show mercy to our forebears,* and to remember his holy covenant.
5 This was the oath he swore to our father Abraham:* to set us free from the hands of our
enemies,
6 free to worship him without fear,* holy and righteous in his sight all the days of our life.
7 You my child shall be called the prophet of the Most High,* for you will go before the Lord
to prepare his way,
8 to give his people knowledge of salvation* by the forgiveness of all their sins.
9 In the tender compassion of our God* the dawn from on high shall break upon us,
10 to shine on those who dwell in darkness and the shadow of death,* and to guide our feet
into the way of peace.

Gloria

PRAYERS

Lord, have mercy upon us.

Christ, have mercy upon us.

Lord, have mercy upon us.

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.
Do not bring us to the time of trial,
but deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours,
now and for ever.
Amen.

Collect (see p. 21)

God most holy, we give you thanks for bringing us out of the shadow of night into the light of morning; and we ask you for the joy of spending this day in your service, so that when evening comes, we may once more give you thanks, through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord. Amen.

Let us bless the Lord:

Thanks be to God!

The Lord bless us and preserve us from all evil;
and bring us to life eternal. Amen.

MAGNIFICAT

- 1 My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord,* my spirit rejoices in God my Saviour;
 - 2 for he has looked with favour on his lowly servant;* from this day all generations will call me blessed.
 - 3 The Almighty has done great things for me* and holy is his name.
 - 4 He has mercy on those who fear him* in every generation.
 - 5 He has shown the strength of his arm;* he has scattered the proud in their conceit.
 - 6 He has cast down the mighty from their thrones* and has lifted up the lowly.
 - 7 He has filled the hungry with good things,* and the rich he has sent away empty.
 - 8 He has come to the help of his servant Israel,* for he has remembered his promise of mercy,
 - 9 the promise he made to our forebears,* to Abraham and his children for ever.
- Glory...**

PRAYERS

Lord, have mercy upon us.

Christ, have mercy upon us.

Lord, have mercy upon us.

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.
Do not bring us to the time of trial,
but deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours,
now and for ever.
Amen.

Collect (see p. 21)

Lord God almighty, come and dispel the darkness from our hearts, that in the radiance of your brightness we may know you, the only unfading light, glorious in all eternity.
Amen.

Let us bless the Lord:

Thanks be to God!

The God of hope fill us with all joy and peace in believing:
through the power of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Collects

Collects are not allocated for particular Sundays or weeks during the Season of Creation, other than for Thanksgiving for Harvest, with which the season concludes. Those which follow may therefore be used as considered appropriate to the occasion in each community in which they are used.

For the Season God Most High,
maker of heaven and earth,
you created humankind in your own image
and entrusted the whole world to human care:
give us grace to serve you faithfully,
that we might be trustworthy stewards of your creation,
through Jesus Christ our Lord,
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

General: Holy God,
Creator of the world and fount of all life,
you never abandon the creatures formed by your wisdom:
remain with us always, we pray,
working for our good,
through Jesus Christ our Lord,
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

God the Creator,
in Christ you call all people
to the fullness of glory
for which you created us in your image:
heal our hardened hearts,
renew our obedience to your will,
and conform our lives to your gracious design,
through Jesus Christ our Lord,
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

O God,
in whose wisdom all things have been established in order:
enlighten the people you have saved,
that they may consider
the greater wonder of your new creation,
brought forth in the fullness of time,
through the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ, our Lord,
through Jesus Christ our Lord,
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

God of our salvation,
be with us when we call upon you,
and bless us with your steadfast loving kindness:
restore in us the beauty of your creation
and keep intact the gifts you have restored,
through Jesus Christ our Lord,
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

Harvest:

God, in whom all things are possible,
you crown the year with your goodness
and give us the fruits of the earth in their season:
grant that we may use them to your glory,
so that none may hunger, none may thirst,
and all may cherish the gifts of your creation,
through Jesus Christ our Lord,
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

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