

ecologist's
PRAYER
companion



Compiled by
Tagoy Jakosalem OAR

Psalm 24: 1-6

The earth is the LORD's and all it holds,
the world and those who dwell in it.

For he founded it on the seas,
established it over the rivers.
Who may go up the mountain of the LORD?
Who can stand in his holy place?

“The clean of hand and pure of heart,
who has not given his soul to useless things,
what is vain.

He will receive blessings from the LORD,
and justice from his saving God.

Such is the generation that seeks him,
that seeks the face of the God of Jacob.”

Psalm 101:1-8

I sing of mercy and justice;
to you, LORD, I sing praise.

I study the way of integrity;
when will you come to me?
I act with integrity of heart
within my household.*

I do not allow into my presence anything base.
I hate wrongdoing;
I will have no part of it.

May the devious heart keep far from me;
the wicked I will not acknowledge.

Whoever slanders a neighbor in secret
I will reduce to silence.
Haughty eyes and arrogant hearts
I cannot endure.

I look to the faithful of the land
to sit at my side.
Whoever follows the way of integrity
is the one to enter my service.

No one who practices deceit
can remain within my house.
No one who speaks falsely
can last in my presence.

Morning after morning I clear all the wicked from the land,
to rid the city of the LORD of all doers of evil.

Psalm 103:2-22

Bless the LORD, my soul;
and do not forget all his gifts,
Who pardons all your sins,
and heals all your ills,

Who redeems your life from the pit,
and crowns you with mercy and compassion,

Who fills your days with good things,
so your youth is renewed like the eagle's.

The LORD does righteous deeds,
brings justice to all the oppressed.

He made known his ways to Moses,
to the Israelites his deeds.

Merciful and gracious is the LORD,
slow to anger, abounding in mercy.

He will not always accuse,
and nurses no lasting anger;

He has not dealt with us as our sins merit,
nor requited us as our wrongs deserve.

For as the heavens tower over the earth,
so his mercy towers over those who fear him.

As far as the east is from the west,
so far has he removed our sins from us.

As a father has compassion on his children,
so the LORD has compassion on those who fear him.

For he knows how we are formed,
remembers that we are dust.

As for man, his days are like the grass;

he blossoms like a flower in the field.

A wind sweeps over it and it is gone;
its place knows it no more.

But the LORD's mercy is from age to age,
toward those who fear him.
His salvation is for the children's children
of those who keep his covenant,
and remember to carry out his precepts.

The LORD has set his throne in heaven;
his dominion extends over all.

Bless the LORD, all you his angels,
mighty in strength, acting at his behest,
obedient to his command.

Bless the LORD, all you his hosts,
his ministers who carry out his will.

Bless the LORD, all his creatures,
everywhere in his domain.
Bless the LORD, my soul!

Psalm 144: 1-11

Blessed be the LORD, my rock,
who trains my hands for battle,
my fingers for war;

My safeguard and my fortress,
my stronghold, my deliverer,
My shield, in whom I take refuge,
who subdues peoples under me.

LORD, what is man that you take notice of him;
the son of man, that you think of him?

Man is but a breath,
his days are like a passing shadow.

LORD, incline your heavens and come down;
touch the mountains and make them smoke.

Flash forth lightning and scatter my foes;
shoot your arrows and rout them.

Reach out your hand from on high;
deliver me from the many waters;
rescue me from the hands of foreign foes.

Their mouths speak untruth;
their right hands are raised in lying oaths.

O God, a new song I will sing to you;
on a ten-stringed lyre I will play for you.

You give victory to kings;
you delivered David your servant.
From the menacing sword deliver me;
rescue me from the hands of foreign foes.

Psalm 118:1-9

Give thanks to the LORD, for he is good,
his mercy endures forever.

Let Israel say:
his mercy endures forever.

Let the house of Aaron say,
his mercy endures forever.

Let those who fear the LORD say,
his mercy endures forever.

In danger I called on the LORD;
the LORD answered me and set me free.

The LORD is with me; I am not afraid;
what can mortals do against me?

The LORD is with me as my helper;
I shall look in triumph on my foes.

Better to take refuge in the LORD
than to put one's trust in mortals.

Better to take refuge in the LORD
than to put one's trust in princes.

Psalm 139:1-18

LORD, you have probed me, you know me:
you know when I sit and stand;
you understand my thoughts from afar.

You sift through my travels and my rest;
with all my ways you are familiar.

Even before a word is on my tongue,
LORD, you know it all.

Behind and before you encircle me
and rest your hand upon me.

Such knowledge is too wonderful for me,
far too lofty for me to reach.

Where can I go from your spirit?
From your presence, where can I flee?

If I ascend to the heavens, you are there;
if I lie down in Sheol, there you are.^c

If I take the wings of dawn
and dwell beyond the sea,

Even there your hand guides me,
your right hand holds me fast.

If I say, "Surely darkness shall hide me,
and night shall be my light"

Darkness is not dark for you,
and night shines as the day.
Darkness and light are but one.

You formed my inmost being;
you knit me in my mother's womb.

I praise you, because I am wonderfully made;

wonderful are your works!
My very self you know.

My bones are not hidden from you,
When I was being made in secret,
fashioned in the depths of the earth.

Your eyes saw me unformed;
in your book all are written down;
my days were shaped, before one came to be.

How precious to me are your designs, O God;
how vast the sum of them!

Were I to count them, they would outnumber the sands;
when I complete them, still you are with me.

Psalm 86:1-17

Incline your ear, LORD, and answer me,
for I am poor and oppressed.

Preserve my life, for I am devoted;
save your servant who trusts in you.
You are my God;
be gracious to me, Lord;
to you I call all the day.

Gladden the soul of your servant;
to you, Lord, I lift up my soul.

Lord, you are good and forgiving,
most merciful to all who call on you.

LORD, hear my prayer;
listen to my cry for help.

On the day of my distress I call to you,
for you will answer me.

None among the gods can equal you, O Lord;
nor can their deeds compare to yours.

All the nations you have made shall come
to bow before you, Lord,
and give honor to your name.

For you are great and do wondrous deeds;
and you alone are God.

Teach me, LORD, your way
that I may walk in your truth,
single-hearted and revering your name.

I will praise you with all my heart,
glorify your name forever, Lord my God.

Your mercy to me is great;

you have rescued me from the depths of Sheol.

O God, the arrogant have risen against me;
a ruthless band has sought my life;
to you they pay no heed.

But you, Lord, are a compassionate and gracious God,
slow to anger, abounding in mercy and truth.

Turn to me, be gracious to me;
give your strength to your servant;
save the son of your handmaid.

Give me a sign of your favor:
make my enemies see, to their confusion,
that you, LORD, help and comfort me.

Daniel 3:26.27.29.34-43

Blessed are you, and praiseworthy,
O Lord, the God of our ancestors,
and glorious forever is your name.

For you are just in all you have done;
all your deeds are faultless, all your ways right,
and all your judgments proper.

For we have sinned and transgressed
by departing from you,
and we have done every kind of evil.

For your name's sake, do not deliver us up forever,
or make void your covenant.

Do not take away your mercy from us,
for the sake of Abraham, your beloved,
Isaac your servant, and Israel your holy one,

To whom you promised to multiply their offspring
like the stars of heaven,
or the sand on the shore of the sea.

For we are reduced, O Lord, beyond any other nation,
brought low everywhere in the world this day
because of our sins.

We have in our day no prince, prophet, or leader,
no burnt offering, sacrifice, oblation, or incense,
no place to offer first fruits, to find favor with you.

But with contrite heart and humble spirit
let us be received;
As though it were burnt offerings of rams and bulls,
or tens of thousands of fat lambs,

So let our sacrifice be in your presence today
and find favor before you;
for those who trust in you cannot be put to shame.

And now we follow you with our whole heart,
we fear you and we seek your face.
Do not put us to shame,
but deal with us in your kindness and great mercy.

Deliver us in accord with your wonders,
and bring glory to your name, O Lord:

Colossians 1:3-8

We always give thanks to God,
the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,
when we pray for you,
for we have heard of your faith in Christ Jesus
and the love that you have for all the holy ones
because of the hope reserved for you in heaven.
Of this you have already heard through the word of truth, the gospel,
that has come to you. Just as in the whole world it is bearing fruit and
growing, so also among you,
from the day you heard it and came to know the grace of God in
truth,
as you learned it from Epaphras our beloved fellow slave,
who is a trustworthy minister of Christ on your behalf
and who also told us of your love in the Spirit.

Colossians 1:10-20

Therefore, from the day we heard this,
we do not cease praying for you
and asking that you may be filled with the knowledge of his will
through all spiritual wisdom and understanding
to live in a manner worthy of the Lord, so as to be fully pleasing,
in every good work bearing fruit and growing
in the knowledge of God,
strengthened with every power, in accord with his glorious might,
for all endurance and patience, with joy
giving thanks to the Father, who has made you fit to share
in the inheritance of the holy ones in light.

He delivered us from the power of darkness
and transferred us to the kingdom of his beloved Son,
in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.
He is the image of the invisible God,
the firstborn of all creation.

For in him were created all things in heaven and on earth,
the visible and the invisible,
whether thrones or dominions or principalities or powers;
all things were created through him and for him.

He is before all things,
and in him all things hold together.

He is the head of the body, the church.
He is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead,
that in all things he himself might be preeminent.

For in him all the fullness was pleased to dwell,
and through him to reconcile all things for him,
making peace by the blood of his cross
[through him], whether those on earth or those in heaven.

Let every creature love you

But let my soul praise You, that it may love You;
and let it confess Your own mercies to You, that it may praise You.
Your whole creation ceases not,
nor is it silent in Your praises— neither the spirit of man,
by the voice directed unto You,
nor animal nor corporeal things,
by the voice of those meditating thereon;
so that our souls may from their weariness arise towards You,
leaning on those things which You have made,
and passing on to You, who hast made them wonderfully
and there is there refreshment and true strength.

St. Augustine (Conf. 5, 1)

Under the shadow of Your wings

O Lord our God, under the shadow of Your wings
let us hope, defend us, and carry us.
You will carry us both when little,
and even to grey hairs will You carry us; for our firmness,
when it is Thou, then is it firmness;
but when it is our own, then it is infirmity.
Our good lives always with You,
from which when we are averted we
are perverted. Let us now, O Lord, return,
that we be not overturned,
because with You our good lives without any eclipse,
which good You Yourself art.
And we need not fear lest we should find no place
unto which to return because we fell away from it;
for when we were absent, our home— Your Eternity— fell not.

St. Augustine (Conf. 4, 31)

I carry you in memory

And I marveled that I now loved You,
and no phantasm instead of You.

And yet I did not merit to enjoy my God,
but was transported to You by Your beauty,
and presently torn away from You by my own weight,
sinking with grief into these inferior things.

This weight was carnal custom.

Yet was there a remembrance of You with me;
nor did I any way doubt that there was one to whom I might cleave,
but that I was not yet one who could cleave unto You;
for that the body which is corrupted presses down the soul,
and the earthly dwelling weighs down the mind which thinks upon
many things.

St. Augustine (Conf. 7, 23)

I embraced the Way

And I sought a way of acquiring strength sufficient to enjoy You;
but I found it not until I embraced
that Mediator between God and man,
the man Christ Jesus, who is over all,
God blessed for ever, calling unto me,
and saying, I am the way, the truth, and the life,
and mingling that food which I was unable to receive with our flesh.
For the Word was made flesh, that Your wisdom,
by which You created all things, might provide milk for our infancy.

St. Augustine (Conf. 7, 24)

My God, Let me remember you with gratitude

O My God,
let me with gratitude remember and confess unto You
Your mercies bestowed upon me.
Let my bones be steeped in Your love,
and let them say, Who is like You, O Lord?
You have loosed my bonds,
I will offer unto You the sacrifice of thanksgiving.
And how You have loosed them I will declare;
and all who worship You when they hear these things
shall say: Blessed be the Lord in heaven and earth,
great and wonderful is His name.

St. Augustine (Conf. 8, 1)

I asked the sky and the earth

And what is this? I asked the earth;
and it answered, I am not He;
and whatsoever are therein made the same confession.
I asked the sea and the deeps,
and the creeping things that lived, and they replied,
We are not your God, seek higher than we.
I asked the breezy air, and the universal air
with its inhabitants answered,
(...) I am not God. I asked the heavens,
the sun, moon, and stars: Neither, say they,
are we the God whom you seek?
And I answered unto all these things
which stand about the door of my flesh,
You have told me concerning my God,
that you are not He; tell me something about Him.
And with a loud voice they exclaimed,
He made us.

St. Augustine (Conf. 10, 9)

Everything is both good and very good

And You, O God,

saw everything that You had made,

and behold it was very good...

So we also see the same,

and behold all are very good.

In each particular kind of Your works,

when You had said, Let them be made,

and they were made,

Thou saw that it was good.

Seven times have I counted it written that Thou

saw that that which You made was good;

and this is the eighth,

that Thou saw all things that You had made,

and behold they are not only good, but also very good,

as being now taken together.

For individually they were only good,

but all taken together they were both good and very good.

St. Augustine (Conf. 13, 43)

Lord, grant us your peace

O Lord God, grant Your peace unto us,
for You have supplied us with all things— the peace of rest,
the peace of the Sabbath, which has no evening.
For all this most beautiful order of things,
very good (all their courses being finished), is to pass away,
for in them there was morning and evening.
But the seventh day is without any evening,
nor has it any setting, because You have sanctified it
to an everlasting continuance that
that which Thou did after Your works, which were very good,
resting on the seventh day,
although in unbroken rest You made them
that the voice of Your Book may speak beforehand unto us,
that we also after our works
(therefore very good, because You have given them unto us)
may repose in You also in the Sabbath of eternal life.

St. Augustine (Conf. 13, 50-51)

A Prayer of Gratitude for Creation

God of the universe,
We thank You for Your many good gifts -
For the beauty of Creation and its rich and varied fruits,
For clean water and fresh air, for food and shelter, animals and
plants.

Forgive us for the times we have taken the earth's resources
for granted
And wasted what You have given us.
Transform our hearts and minds
So that we would learn to care and share,
To touch the earth with gentleness and with love,
Respecting all living things.

We pray for all those who suffer as a result of our waste,
greed and indifference,
And we pray that the day would come when everyone has enough
food and clean water.
Help us to respect the rights of all people and all species
And help us to willingly share your gifts
Today and always.
Amen.

Creation Prayer

God our Father,
you created the world and sent your own Son
to live among us, made of the same stuff,
breathing the same air,
marvelling at sunrise and sunset just as we do.
Help us to participate in the life around and within us as your life,
as you living in us and we living in you and in each other.
God of love and life, restore us to your peace,
renew us through your power and teach us to love
all that you have created and to care for the earth as your gift and
our home.

A Call to Prayer (*Hildegard of Bingen*)

The earth is at the same time mother,

She is mother of all that is natural, mother of all that is human.

She is the mother of all, for contained in her are the seeds of all.

The earth of humankind contains all moistness, all verdancy, all
germinating power.

It is in so many ways fruitful.

All creation comes from it. Yet it forms not only the basic raw
material for humankind, but also the substance of the incarnation of
God's son.

A Prayer of Awareness (*Hildegard of Bingen*)

God is the foundation for everything

This God undertakes, God gives.

Such that nothing that is necessary for life is lacking.

Now humankind needs a body that at all times honors and praises
God.

This body is supported in every way through the earth.

Thus the earth glorifies the power of God.

O Eternal God (*Hildegard of Bingen, Songs from Symphonia, 2*)

O Eternal God, now may it please you
to burn in love
so that we become the limbs
fashioned in the love you felt
when you begot your Son
at the first dawn
before all creation.

And consider this need which falls upon us,
take it from us for the sake of your Son,
and lead us to the joy of your salvation.

Ave Maria (*Hildegard of Bingen, Songs from Symphonia, 3*)

Hail, Mary, author of life,
you have rebuilt our salvation.

You have shaken death
and destroyed the serpent
to which Eve rose up
with head held high in the breath of her pride.

You trampled it down
when you gave birth to the Son of God from heaven.

By the inspiration of the Spirit of God.
Sweet and loving Mother, we greet you,

You have granted the world your child sent from heaven,
By the inspiration of the Spirit of God.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit.
By the inspiration of the Spirit of God.

Two Prayers by St. Patrick

I.

At Tara today in this fateful hour
I place all heaven with its power,
And the sun with its brightness,
And the snow with its whiteness,
And Fire with all the strength it hath,
And Lightning with its rapid wrath,
And the winds with their swiftness along their path,
And the sea with its deepness,
And the rocks with their steepness
And the Earth with its starkness;
All these I place
By God's almighty help and grace,
Between myself and the powers of Darkness.

II.

I arise today
Through a mighty strength, the invocation of the Trinity,
Through a belief in threeness,
Through confession of the oneness
Of the Creator of Creation.
I arise today
Through the strength of heaven,
Light of sun,
Radiance of moon,
Splendor of fire,
Speed of lightning,
Swiftness of wind,
Depth of sea,
Stability of earth,
Firmness of rock.
I arise today
Through a might, the invocation of the Trinity,
Through belief in the threeness,
Through confession of the oneness
of the Creator of Creation.

Psalm of the Cosmos (*Source unknown*)

Loving God, loving God,
all creation calls you blessed,
and so do we, and so do we.

Loving God,
all your creation calls you blessed.
Your spirit imprints the whole universe with life and mystery.
Yes, all creation proclaims your love.
We now join this chorus of praise.

Loving God,
all of nature calls you blessed,
and so do we.
For you have woven an intimate tapestry
and call it life
and called it good.

In love you have formed a universe
so diverse yet so related,
and into its web you call us forth
to walk the land and swim the sea
with all our natural brothers and sisters.

To the stars
we seem no more than blades of grass.
Yet to you, each of us,
as each blade of grass and each star,
is an irreplaceable treasure,
an essential companion on this journey of love.

Loving God, as you lure the whole world into salvation,
guide us with your Spirit
that we might not be only pilgrims on the earth,
but pilgrims with the earth,
journeying home to you.

Open our hearts to understand
the intimate relationship that you have with all creation.
Only with this faith can we hope

for tomorrow's children.
Amen. Alleluia!

Loving God, loving God,
all creation calls you blessed,
and so do we, and so do we.

Hymn of the Universe (*Teilhard de Chardin*)

I live at the heart of a single, unique Element,
the Center of the universe, and present in each part of it:
personal Love and cosmic Power.

To attain to him and become merged into his life I have before me
the entire universe with its noble struggles, its impassioned quests,
its myriad of souls to be healed and made perfect.

I can and I must throw myself into the thick of human endeavor,
and with no stopping for breath.

For the more I bring my efforts to bear on the whole surface of
reality,

the more also will I attain to Christ and cling close to him.

God who is eternal Being-in-itself, is, one might say,
ever in process of formation for us.

And God is also the heart of everything;

so much so that the vast setting of the universe might be engulfed
or wither away or be creation's dust,

which is vitalized by a halo of energy and glory,

to be swept away, the substantial Reality wherein every perfection
is incorruptibly contained and possessed would remain intact;

the rays would be drawn back onto their Source

and there I should still hold them all in close embrace.

The Heavens declare the glory of God

“Through heaven and earth and the sea,
through wood and stone, through all creation visible and invisible,
I offer veneration to the Creator and Master and Maker directly and
by itself,
but it is through me that the heavens declare the glory of God,
through me the moon worships God,
through me the stars glorify him, through me the waters and the
showers rain,
the dews and all the creation, venerate God and give him glory.”
(St. Leontios of Cyprus)

Bless, O Lord...

"But keep, O Lord, our journey through this life free also from storm and hurt unto the end.

Send down refreshing rain upon the. places that have need of it;
gladden and renew through it the face of the earth,
that it may delight in the refreshing drops and become green ...

Bless, O Lord, the fruits of the earth, keep them for us free from
disease and hurt, and prepare them for our sowing and our harvest ...

Bless now also, O Lord, the crown of the year through Thy goodness
for the sake of the poor among Thy people,
for the sake of the widow and the orphan,
for the sake of the wanderer and the newcomer
and for the sake of all who trust in Thee and call upon Thy Holy
Name."

(Egyptian Liturgy of St Mark)

Praising Thee

"The heavens praise Thee, and their whole might, the sun, the moon,
and all the choir of stars, the earth, the sea and all that therein is,
the heavenly Jerusalem, the church of the firstborn that stands
written
upon the heavens, the angels and archangels ..."
(Greek Liturgy of St James)

Glory to God for All Things (Akathistos Hymn)

O Lord, how lovely it is to be Your guest.
Breeze full of scents; mountains reaching to the skies;
waters like boundless mirrors, reflecting the sun's golden rays
and the scudding clouds.
All nature murmurs mysteriously, breathing the depth of
tenderness.
Birds and beasts of the forest bear the imprint of Your love.
Blessed are you, mother earth, in your fleeting loveliness,
which wakens our yearning for happiness that will last forever.
In the land where, amid beauty that grows not old, rings out the
cry: Alleluia!

You have brought me into life as if into an enchanted paradise.
We have seen the sky like a chalice of deepest blue,
where in the azure heights the birds are singing.
We have listened to the soothing murmur of the forest
and the melodious music of the streams.
We have tasted fruit of fine flavor and the sweet-scented honey.
We can live very well on Your earth.
It is a pleasure to be Your guest...

I see Your heavens resplendent with stars.
How glorious You are, radiant with light!
Eternity watches me by the rays of the distant stars.
I am small, insignificant, but the Lord is at my side.
Your right arm guides me wherever I go...

Hymns on Paradise (*St. Ephrem the Syrian, Hymn XI*)

The air of Paradise
is a fountain of delight
from which Adam sucked
when he was young;
its very breath, like a mother's breast,
gave him nourishment in his childhood.
He was young, fair,
and full of joy,
but when he spurned the injunction
he grew old, sad and decrepit;
he bore old age
as a burden of woes.

No harmful frost,
no scorching heat
is to be found
in that blessed place of delight;
it is a harbor of joys,
a haven of pleasures;
light and rejoicing
have their home there;
gathered there are to be found
harps and lyres,
with shouts of Hosanna,
and the Church crying "Alleluia."

The fence which surrounds it
is the peace which gives peace to all;
its inner and outer walls
are the concord which reconciles all things;
the cherub who encircles it
is radiant to those who are within
but full of menace to those outside
who have been cast out.
All that you hear told
about this Paradise,
so pure and holy,
is pure and spiritual.

Let not this description of it
be judged by one who hears it,
for descriptions of it
are not at all subject to judgment,
since, even though it may appear terrestrial
because of the terms used,
it is in its reality
spiritual and pure.

Even though the name of "spirit"
is applied to two kinds of beings,
yet the unclean spirit is quite separate
from the one that is sanctified.

For him who would tell of it
there is no other means
but to use the names
of things that are visible,
thus depicting for his hearers
a likeness of things that are hidden.
For if the Creator
of the Garden
has clothed His majesty
in terms that we can understand,
how much more can His Garden
be described with our similes?

If someone concentrates his attention solely
on the metaphors used of God's majesty,
he abuses and misrepresents that majesty
and thus errs
by means of those metaphors
with which God clothed Himself for his benefit,
and he is ungrateful to that Grace
which stooped low
to the level of his childishness;
although it has nothing in common with him,
yet Grace clothed itself in his likeness
in order to bring him to the likeness of itself.

Do not let your intellect

be disturbed by mere names,
for Paradise has simply clothed itself
in terms that are akin to you;
it is not because it is impoverished
that it has put on your imagery;
rather, your nature is far too weak
to be able
to attain to its greatness,
and its beauties are much diminished
by being depicted in the pale colors
with which you are familiar.

For feeble eyes
cannot gaze upon
the dazzling sight
of its celestial beauties;
it has clothed its trees
with the names of the trees we know;
its figs are called
by the same name as our figs,
its leaves, which are spiritual,
have taken on bodily form;
they have been changed
so that their vesture may resemble ours.

More numerous and glorious
than the stars
in the sky that we behold
are the blossoms of that land,
and the fragrance which exhales from it
through divine Grace
is like a physician
sent to heal the ills
of a land that is under a curse;
by its healing breath it cures
the sickness that entered in
through the serpent.

The breath that wafts
from some blessed comer of Paradise

gives sweetness
to the bitterness of this region,
it tempers the curse
on this earth of ours.
That Garden is
the life-breath
of this diseased world
that has been so long in sickness;
that breath proclaims that a saving remedy
has been sent to heal our mortality.

What need was there
that from that land
a river should flow forth
and divide itself,
except that the blessing of Paradise
should be mingled by means of water
as it issues forth
to irrigate the world,
making clean its fountains
that had become polluted by curses
-just as that "sickly water"
had been made wholesome by the salt.

Thus it is with another spring,
full of perfumes,
which issues from Eden
and penetrates into the atmosphere
as a beneficial breeze
by which our souls are stirred;
our inhalation is healed
by this healing breath
from Paradise;
springs receive a blessing
from that blessed spring
which issues forth from there.

Avastcenser
exhaling fragrance
impregnates the air

with its odoriferous smoke,
imparting to all who are near it
a whiff from which to benefit.
How much the more so
with Paradise the glorious:
even its fence assists us,
modifying somewhat
that curse upon the earth
by the scent of its aromas.

When the blessed Apostles
were gathered together
the place shook
and the scent of Paradise,
having recognized its home,
poured forth its perfumes,
delighting the heralds
by whom
the guests are instructed
and come to His banquet;
eagerly He awaits their arrival
for He is the Lover of mankind.

Make me worthy through Your grace
to attain to Paradise's gift
-this treasure of perfumes,
this storehouse of scents.
My hunger takes delight
in the breath of its fragrance,
for its scent gives nourishment to all
at all times,
and whoever inhales it
is overjoyed and forgets his earthly bread;
this is the table of the Kingdom-
blessed is He who prepared it in Eden.

The Canticle of the Creatures

Most High, all-powerful, good Lord,
Yours are the praises, the glory,
and the honour and all blessing.
To You alone, Most High, do they belong
and no human is worthy to mention Your name.
Praised be you, my Lord, with all Your creatures,
especially Sir Brother Sun,
who is the day, and through whom You give us light.
And he is beautiful and radiant with great splendour;
and bears a likeness of You, Most High one.
Praised be You, my Lord, through Sister Moon and the stars,
in heaven You formed them clear and precious and beautiful.
Praised be You, my Lord, through Brother Wind,
And through the air, cloudy and serene,
and every kind of weather,
Through whom You give sustenance to Your creatures.
Praised be You, my Lord, through Sister water,
who is very useful and humble and precious and chaste.

Praised be You, my lord, through Brother fire,
through whom You light the night,
and he is beautiful and playful and robust and strong.
Praised be You, my Lord, through our Sister Mother Earth,
who sustains and governs us, and who produces various fruit with
coloured flowers and herbs.
Praised be You, my Lord, through those who give pardon for Your
love, and bear infirmity and tribulation. Blessed those who endure in
peace, for by You, Most High, shall they be crowned.
Praised be You, my Lord, through our Sister Bodily Death,
from whom no one living can escape.
Woe to those who die in mortal sin.
Blessed are those whom death will find in Your most holy will,
for the second death shall do them no harm.
Praise and bless my Lord and give Him thanks and serve Him with
great humility. Amen.

St. Francis of Assisi

The Praises of God

You are the holy Lord God Who does wonderful things.
You are strong. You are great.
You are the most high.
You are the almighty king.
You holy Father, King of heaven and earth.
You are three and one, the Lord God of gods;
You are the good, all good, the highest good,
Lord God living and true.
You are love, charity; You are wisdom, You are humility,
You are patience, You are beauty, You are meekness,
You are security, You are rest,
You are gladness and joy, You are our hope, You are justice,
You are moderation, You are all our riches to sufficiency.
You are beauty, You are meekness,
You are the protector, You are our custodian and defender,
You are strength, You are refreshment.
You are our hope, You are our faith, You are our charity,
You are all our sweetness, You are our eternal life:
Great and wonderful Lord, Almighty God, Merciful Savior.

St. Francis of Assisi

A Prayer for our Earth

All-powerful God,
you are present in the whole universe
and in the smallest of your creatures.
You embrace with your tenderness all that exists.
Pour out upon us the power of your love,
that we may protect life and beauty.
Fill us with peace,
that we may live as brothers and sisters, harming no one.
O God of the poor, help us to rescue the abandoned
and forgotten of this earth, so precious in your eyes.
Bring healing to our lives,
that we may protect the world and not prey on it,
that we may sow beauty, not pollution and destruction.
Touch the hearts of those who look only for gain
at the expense of the poor and the earth.
Teach us to discover the worth of each thing,
to be filled with awe and contemplation,
to recognize that we are profoundly united
with every creature
as we journey towards your infinite light.
We thank you for being with us each day.
Encourage us, we pray, in our struggle for justice, love and peace.

Pope Francis (Laudato Si', 246)

A Christian prayer in union with creation

Father, we praise you with all your creatures.
They came forth from your all-powerful hand;
they are yours, filled with your presence and your tender love.
Praise be to you!

Son of God, Jesus,
through you all things were made.
You were formed in the womb of Mary our Mother,
you became part of this earth,
and you gazed upon this world with human eyes.
Today you are alive in every creature
in your risen glory.
Praise be to you!

Holy Spirit, by your light
you guide this world towards the Father's love
and accompany creation as it groans in travail.
You also dwell in our hearts
and you inspire us to do what is good.
Praise be to you!

Triune Lord, wondrous community of infinite love,
teach us to contemplate you
in the beauty of the universe,
for all things speak of you.
Awaken our praise and thankfulness
for every being that you have made.
Give us the grace to feel profoundly joined
to everything that is.

God of love, show us our place in this world
as channels of your love
for all the creatures of this earth,
for not one of them is forgotten in your sight.
Enlighten those who possess power and money
that they may avoid the sin of indifference,
that they may love the common good, advance the weak,
and care for this world in which we live.

The poor and the earth are crying out.
O Lord, seize us with your power and light,
help us to protect all life,
to prepare for a better future,
for the coming of your Kingdom
of justice, peace, love and beauty.
Praise be to you!
Amen.

Pope Francis (Laudato Si', 246)

Lord, grant us Wisdom to Care for the Earth

Lord, grant us the wisdom to care for the earth and till it.

Help us to act now for the good of future generations
and all your creatures.

Help us to become instruments of a new creation,
founded on the covenant of your love.

Amen.

- from The Cry of the Earth

Holy Spirit, We need Your Help

Holy Spirit we need help!
Our planetary home is hurting;
global warming and climate change
with millions of humans uprooted,
and fish, flower and fauna
facing dire extinction.

Holy Spirit hear us!

We stewards of creation
plead human need for counsel
before using our God given gifts
communally with many others
to repair the harm of our greed
with faith in your guidance.

Holy Spirit help us!

We are too ego bent
to one colour of the spectrum,
our need is urgent for inspiration
so truths of our baptismal faith
rend our stubborn hearts
to solidarity of intent.

Holy Spirit inspire us!

We await clerics' help
ordained to pilot our prayers
within our sacramental sanctuaries
sustaining our own lay callings
for social and eco-justice;
help heal our home.

Holy Spirit guide us!

from Lamplighters' Forum

Environmental Prayer

Lord God, We thank you for the gift of life.

We thank and praise you for the mystery of creation.

We know that you are in us, and we in you.

Guide us, therefore,

In our efforts to hand on the earth to future generations,

So that others can seek to understand

Your will and purpose in the world,

Bring your love to perfection

And magnify your holy name.

Help us overcome godlessness with love.

Help us support and protect the victims of climate change
everywhere;

Those who've lost their homes or livelihoods

to the ravages of famine, fire and flood.

Teach us to live in peace And harmony with all creation.

Lord, in your name.

Amen.

<http://www.st-albans.dk/green-church/environmental-prayer/>

Prayer for Environmental Sustainability

Let us pray for an end to the Waste
and desecration of God's creation
For access to the fruits of creation,
To be shared equally among all people
and for communities and nations to find sustenance
In the fruits of the earth and the water God has given us.
Almighty God, you created the world and gave it
Into our care so that, in obedience to you,
We might serve all people:
Inspire us to use the riches of creation with wisdom,
and to ensure that their blessings are shared by all;
That, trusting in your bounty, all people may be
Empowered to seek freedom from poverty, famine, and oppression.

We Thank You, Creator God

We thank you, creator God,
for the goodly heritage you offer us,
from green downland to the deep salt seas,
and for the abundant world we share with your creation.
Keep us so mindful of its needs and those of all with whom we share,
that open to your Spirit
we may discern and practice all that makes for its wellbeing,
through Jesus Christ our Lord, Amen.

- Rev. Peter Lippiett

Earth Prayer

Hey! Learn to hear my feeble voice.
At the center of the sacred hoop
You have said that I should make the tree to bloom.
With tears running,
O Great Spirit, my Grandfather,
With running eyes I must say
The tree has never bloomed
Here I stand, and the tree is withered.
Again, I recall the great vision you gave me.
It may be that some little root of the sacred tree still lives.
Nourish it then
That it may leaf
And bloom
And fill with singing birds!
Hear me, that the people may once again
Find the good road And the shielding tree.

- *Black Elk*

The Beauty of Nature

O God, we thank you for this earth, our home;
For the wide sky and the blessed sun,
For the salt sea and the running water,
For the everlasting hills
And the never-resting winds,
For trees and the common grass underfoot.
We thank you for our senses
By which we hear the songs of birds,
And see the splendor of the summer fields,
And taste of the autumn fruits,
And rejoice in the feel of the snow,
And smell the breath of the spring.
Grant us a heart wide open to all this beauty;
And save our souls from being so blind
That we pass unseeing
When even the common thorn bush
Is aflame with your glory,
O God our creator,
Who lives and reigns forever and ever.

-Walter Rauschenbusch (From Living God's Justice: Reflections and Prayers)

Lord, the Air Smells Good Today

Lord, the air smells good today,
straight from the mysteries within the garden of God.
The trees in their prayer, the birds in praise, the first blue
violets, kneeling.

- *Rumi*

Creation Prayer

Bless us, God our Father,
The immense beauty of the universe
is an expression of your love for us.
The earth in its freshness
 The trees and plants in all their grandeur,

Allow us to cherish the beauty of life – in the person and in nature,
Bequeathed by the stewardship of our ancestors.

Renew us, Lord Jesus,
In whom all things renew the grandeur of your saving grace.
You taught us love in all its fullness,
Teach us to be active stewards of your creation –
 Defending the rights of our people,
 Protecting our mountains, lands, trees and animals,
 Renewing what we have lost through our sinfulness.

Empower us, Holy Spirit.
To embrace the prophetic life of stewardship,
Rejecting all forms of abuse in our environment,
Fomenting a cleaner and sustainable future for our children,
Developing innovative solutions to address environmental
degradation climate
change.

As we care for the gift of our existence,
We care too, for our world.
Amen.

Jaazeal Jakosalem OAR