
Harvest Thanksgiving

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Gathering Song

Stand 'Come, all you people, come and praise your maker' (Uyai Mose)

Introductory Sentences

Voice 1 In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.
God saw all that he had made, and it was very good.

Voice 2 The earth is the Lord's and all that is in it;
the world and those who live in it.

Voice 1 He has founded it on the seas
and established it on the rivers.

Voice 2 The earth is full of your creatures, O God:
these all look to you
to give them their food in due season;

Voice 1 when you give to them, they gather it up;

Voice 2 when you open your hand, they are filled with good things.

Voice 1 In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth...
God saw all that he had made, and it was very good.

All **We praise you, O God**

A central candle is lit.

Voice 1 We light this light to give thanks to God
who brought light and life from the waters of chaos;

who, when the time was right,
sent Jesus to be the light of the world
and who breathes new life into us
and all the earth by the Holy Spirit.

Voice 2 For the faithfulness of your love
for a time to plant and a time to gather the harvest
and for the promise that you make all things new.

All **We praise you, O God**

Hymn: We plough the Fields and Scatter

Stand During the hymn: a cross (made from tree branches or drift wood);
baskets containing 'gifts' of earth, air, fire and water; and a harvest
loaf may be brought in procession and placed at the front.

Confession

Sit A sung Kyrie may be used

Out of the ground the Lord God made to grow
every tree that is pleasant to the sight and good for food,
the tree of life also in the midst of the garden,
and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.

Humans were given freedom in the garden
and responsibility to care for the gifts of creation.

But their choices led to the breaking of relationships in God's
perfect garden.

So, in the shadow of this tree,
let us take a moment to bring to God

our selfishness,
our greed
and our failure to care for the earth.

Voice 1 You place us in your garden of delights
and you ask us to care for all of creation.
But we so often choose our own pathway
and reject your gift of life.

Lord have mercy

All **Lord have mercy**

Voice 2 You ask us to work with you:
to tend and treasure all that you have made
and to care for our neighbours.
You give us the gifts of soil and water
plants, fruit and seeds to grow -
all that we need to live
enough for everyone.
But we close our hands
and hold onto things for ourselves,
forgetting the needs of others

Christ have mercy

All **Christ have mercy**

Voice 1 We live in plenty
and have more than enough to eat.
But so often we ignore the cry
of those who are hungry and thirsty.
You made a world full of diversity
and you welcome the smallest and the least important
but we often fail to include those who are different;

Lord have mercy

All **Lord have mercy**

A red ribbon is placed around the branches of the tree.

- Voice 1* God's love for us and for all the world
weaves through creation like a red thread
- Voice 2* God's love surrounds the earth
and is his everlasting gift to us all.
It wraps around us in our fear and our hope
it surrounds us when we are in darkness
and when we are in light;
in seasons of plenty and times of joy
and in quiet and lonely places when we feel afraid.
- Voice 1* God offers us his love
when things are going well
and when everything has gone wrong.
- Voice 2* God's love is a red thread
that weaves through the story of God's people:
it weaves around us and between us;
a red thread that marks the pathway to life.
- Voice 1* It is the same love that is shown to us on another tree
on a hill a long way away.
It is the love that walks with us
when we are happy and when we are sad.
- Voice 2* It is the love that will find us
and bring us home.
- Voice 1* It is the love of God, stronger than death,
the love that makes all things new.
- Voice 2* God's love in Jesus offers us the gift of new life.
- Voice 1* The Spirit of God breathes through all creation
bringing new life to birth.

Silence is kept

May almighty God have mercy on us,
forgive us our sins,
and bring us to everlasting life,
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

All **Amen**

Song: Behold, behold I make all things new

Stand *John Bell* © 1994, *Iona Community, GIA Publications*

A Reading from Scripture

Sit *Revelation 21: 1a; 5-6; 22. 1-2;17*

Reader 1 Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth;
And the one who was seated the throne said, ‘see I am
making all things new.’

I am the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end.
To the thirsty I will give water as a gift from the spring of the
water of life.

Reader 2 Then the angel showed me the river of the water of life,
bright as crystal, flowing from the throne of God and of the
Lamb through the middle of the street of the city. On either
side of the river is the tree of life with its twelve kinds of
fruit, producing its fruit each month; and the leaves of the
tree are for the healing of the nations.

And let everyone who hears say, "Come." And let everyone who is thirsty come. Let anyone who wishes take the water of life as a gift.

This is the word of the Lord.

All

Thanks be to God

Reflection

Intercessions

Including the following Taizé chant as a sung response:

See, I am near says the Lord. See, I make all things new.

Let us pray.

All

**See, I am near says the Lord
See, I make all things new.**

God of light and love

You created the brightness of the sun
and the silver light of moon and stars.

You bring new life out of empty ground
and you promise to be with us always.

As we gather in the fruits of this year
and the season turns towards winter

help us to trust in your promise that spring will come;
that the sleeping buds will awake and fresh leaves will grow.
Help us to work for the day when all are protected from the
impacts of climate change.

We give thanks for our community
and pray for all who protect nature in our area

and bring new life to neglected areas of our cities towns and landscapes.

We pray in silence for people who need the gift of hope today.

short silence

Come close to all who look to you for help.

All **See, I am near says the Lord**
See, I make all things new.

God of light and love

may we always be thankful for the love you show to us.

We pray for visitors to our church this weekend:

we ask that people would find out more about your love for us all.

In our fragile world,

teach us to work with you

to make a fairer and kinder society

where no one goes hungry or lives in fear.

We pray for all people who are ill or in despair today,

and we pray in particular for

short silence

Bring us to the light of a new day

and to the hope of a new beginning.

All **See, I am near says the Lord**
See, I make all things new.

God of light and love

We give thanks that you care for us like a shepherd

You lead us to the good green grass

and to the pools of still water.

May we share our food and water

and treat the earth's resources gently.

In Jesus you have found us and brought us home.

Today we pray for all who are lost
for refugees and people running away from war;
for all who have lost their land and livelihood because of
climate change
and for all people who are searching for a new home.
May we work to renew our world and bring God's kingdom closer.

All **See, I am near says the Lord**
See, I make all things new.

As we look for the signs of God's new creation
and the tree whose leaves will heal the nations
we pray for anyone or any place in our world that is in need of
God's healing today.

Interactive prayer

*The congregation is invited to write their prayer requests for areas
of the world that are in need of healing by writing or drawing on
their leaves and placing them on or around the tree.*

*Music or singing as the prayers are placed on/by the tree, to
conclude with chant*

All **See, I am near says the Lord**
See, I make all things new.

Generous God
we offer our prayers to you.
Bring us all to your garden of the new creation
and to the great feast in heaven;
to the place where the water of life is for everyone
all people find healing
and your love makes all things new.

Let us pray in faith as Jesus taught us:

All

**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.
Lead us not into temptation
but deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours
now and for ever.
Amen.**

Song

Stand Let us thank God in song for all the gifts that surround us, and for the hope of new life.

We sing together.

'Praise God from whom all blessings flow' (Thomas Tallis)

Blessing

May God the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,
who is the source of all goodness and growth,
pour his blessing upon all things created,
and upon you his children,
that you may use his gifts to his glory
and the welfare of all peoples;

and the blessing of God almighty,
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,
be among *you* and remain with *you* always.

All **Amen.**

We sing together

‘Behold, behold I make all things new’ (John Bell)

*Materials for the service are taken from Common Worship; New Patterns
for Worship; additional materials created by Diane Craven.*

choose**life**

WORSHIP AND ACTION FOR CREATION

Preparation notes

You will need:

- a central candle and method of lighting it
- a large cross created out of driftwood or tree branches
- A prayer tree upon which the prayer leaves will be hung
- a large, wide red ribbon long enough to drape around the branches of the tree
- prayer leaves for all members of the congregation and pens. Each person will need a prayer leaf to hang on the tree during the intercessions. You will need to punch a hole in the top and pre-thread with a sustainably sourced environmentally friendly string. The leaves can be cut out of paper and could also be placed in baskets at strategic points so that people can access them easily.
- a harvest loaf which can be made as a workshop activity.
- large baskets or other containers containing symbols of earth, air, fire and water.

Time to get creative! It is good to choose and/or make the contents of the baskets in groups as a pre-service activity. Try to use natural and tactile materials and consider the variety of colours that reflect earth, air, fire and water. Think about using sustainable materials and materials that can be recycled or that are made from previously recycled materials.

Some suggestions:

Earth: brown and yellow cloth; handful of soil in a bowl; sand; stalks and leaves; berries and flowers; apples; part of a tree branch; an atlas; symbol of the city; stones.

Air: white fabric; fluffy fabric made into the shape of clouds; a balloon cut out of paper; a kite; a bird wing cut out of card; incense.

Fire: red fabric; red orange purple and yellow tissue paper scrunched up to suggest flames; candle; a red heart cut out of paper.

Water: blue fabric; variety of blue scarves with different textures; bowl containing water or scrunched up papers to suggest water; an umbrella; fish shapes cut out of paper; whale shapes; scallop shells; raindrops cut from paper and linked together.

And so much more!

You will need to rehearse the procession and positioning at the front.

The Reflection:

Making a link between the tree in the garden described in Genesis and the tree with leaves 'for the healing of the nations' in another garden at the end of time. In the middle is the tree of crucifixion which makes the new creation possible. Distribute paper leaves and pens, explaining that prayers for healing will be invited during the intercessions.