
Lent Group Prayers

Prayers at the start of the meeting:

Keep a moment of silence, to acknowledge the past day/week. Thank God for the different paths that led people to the place where you are gathered now. Pray for the conversations about to take place. Pray for a deepening of our love for creation, for one another, and for our Creator. After another moment of silence, you may wish to say this prayer:

All creation worships you, O God,
and we your people bless you
for the beauty of the earth.

We thank you for making a good
world in the beginning,
and for making it better by the Word made flesh,
whose death and resurrection in the body reveal
the promised recreation of the universe.

May your kingdom come on earth
as your will is done in heaven
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

All **Amen.**

Prayers at the end of the meeting:

Acknowledge that some of the topics you have discussed may have a deep emotional impact. It is not unusual to feel sadness, guilt, despair and anxiety in the face of the Climate Crisis. There is no better response to these feelings than to bring them to God in prayer, while being reminded of the Creator's never-ending love and care for his creation. As part of your prayer time, you may wish to use this collect:

Creator God,

In this time of abstinence and reflection,
help us to confront our weaknesses in the wilderness
and to play our part in your great universe.

We give thanks for the green shoots of your presence
in the waste places of the world.

May we learn new habits of holy living
in our relationship with the earth.

All **Amen.**

*Prayers taken from 'Praying for the Earth' by Rob Kelsey available from
Sacristy Press (www.sacristy.co.uk)*

If your group meets in the evening, it may be most appropriate to end with a liturgy of 'Night Prayer'. If your group meets during the day, 'Prayer during the Day' will be more appropriate. Common Worship 'A Time for Creation' contains both liturgies, with appropriate creation-themed psalms and short Scripture readings, including Joseph Addison's (1672 – 1719) poem 'The Spacious Firmament on High', which may be sung to the tune of 'Before the Ending of the Day'.

The Spacious Firmament on high,
With all the blue Ethereal Sky,
And spangled Heav'ns, a Shining Frame,
Their great Original proclaim:
Th' unwearied Sun, from day to day,
Does his Creator's Pow'r display,
And publishes to every Land
The Work of an Almighty Hand.

Soon as the Evening Shades prevail,
The Moon takes up the wondrous Tale,
And nightly to the list'ning Earth
Repeats the Story of her Birth:
Whilst all the Stars that round her burn,
And all the Planets, in their turn,
Confirm the Tidings as they rowl,
And spread the Truth from Pole to Pole.

What though, in solemn Silence, all
Move round the dark terrestrial Ball?
What tho' nor real Voice nor Sound
Amid their radiant Orbs be found?
In Reason's Ear they all rejoice,
And utter forth a glorious Voice,
For ever singing, as they shine,
The Hand that made us is Divine.