



# In Thanksgiving for Creation

A Worship Service for Your Household

November 2020

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## WORSHIP

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### + CALL TO WORSHIP LITANY+

The world is filled with the glory of God, and we say,  
**Thank you!**

The hills and valleys are filled with colour, and we say,  
**Thank you!**

The vines and trees are filled with fruit, and we say,  
**Thank you!**

Our tables are overflowing with food, and we say,  
**Thank you!**

Our life is filled with love of family and friends, and we say,  
**Thank you!**

We fill this house of God with our voices, saying,  
**Thank you!**

May the words of our mouths and the meditations of our hearts  
be acceptable to you, O God,  
as enter into this service of thanksgiving and praise.  
**AMEN**

### + CONFESSION & FORGIVENESS +

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God,  
in whose image we are made,  
who claims us and calls us beloved.  
**Amen.**

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

Holy One,  
**we confess that we are not awake for you.**  
**We are not faithful in using your gifts.**  
**We forget the least of our siblings.**  
**We do not see your beautiful image in one another.**  
**We are infected by sin**  
**that divides your beloved community.**  
**Open our hearts to your coming,**  
**open our eyes to see you in our neighbor,**  
**open our hands to serve your creation. Amen.**

Beloved, we are God's children,  
and Jesus, our Beloved, opens the door to us.  
Through † Jesus you are forgiven,  
by Jesus you are welcome,  
in Jesus you are called to rejoice!  
Let us live in the promises prepared for us  
from the foundation of the world.  
Amen.

**+ SONG +**

**+ PRAYER OF THE DAY+**

God of all creation,  
Thank you for the wonderful things you have made.  
Thank you for the universe full of stars and planets.  
Thank you for our world, full of life.  
Thank you for making each one of us.  
Thank you for loving each one of us.  
Take these gifts we now offer back to you.  
May they be used to the glory of your name.  
We offer you ourselves and all the gifts you have blessed us with.  
Take us and use us to share your love with the world.

**Amen.**

**+ SCRIPTURE +**

+ First Reading **Job 38-40**  
+ Gospel **John 1:1-5, 14**

**+ SERMON +**

**+ PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE +**

Ever faithful Lord,  
Ever giving Son,  
Ever present Spirit,  
For the many gifts you grant us and the opportunity to enjoy these things;  
For your daily provision and for the constant signs of your healing love;  
For the hope amidst despair and the light which always shines;  
For all these things, 'thank you' is just so inadequate but it's all we have:  
... to show our gratitude in word, in thought and in action.

So thank you, Lord and may our thanks move beyond words to transform us into thankful folk, faithful folk, seeing folk, folk who see need and see the need to act, folk who love to live and live to love, folk who serve you by serving others.

Help us to be amongst those who include the excluded and bring in those who are marginalized, that when the opportunities come our way to be healers of division and hurt, to be peacemakers and restorers, we won't be found wanting.

Loving, personal Father, We bring before you those people and issues that are closest to us and that occupy our minds at this time ...

Mighty, wonderful Father, we bring before you people and issues from around our world, including those we'll never know personally but who remain our sisters and brothers in you ...

Transforming, healing Father,  
help us to make the light shine in dark places,  
to make peace known in violent places,  
and to bring hope to despondent places.  
Our prayers, spoken and silent  
are brought to you now  
in the name of your Son, Jesus,  
the healer, includer and redeemer, forever.

Amen.

### **+ OFFERING PRAYER +**

God of all goodness,  
we give you praise and thanks for all the blessings of this life.  
We are grateful for  
the gift of food,  
and the opportunity we have to feed others in your name;  
the blessing of shelter,  
and the challenge before us to care for the homeless;  
the love of friends and family,  
and your call to love those who are lost and alone;  
the fellowship of the church,  
and the presence of Christ in the lives of our needy brothers and sisters.  
You have given us much, Holy Lord, and you expect much of us.  
Help us to accept your blessings and your challenges with gratitude,  
and may we find that, through your grace,  
blessings become challenges and challenges become blessings.  
Amen.

### **+ INVITATION TO COMMUNION +**

There is a place for you at the banquet.  
Come and feast at Jesus' table.

If your congregation is engaging in home communion, I invite you to do so now.

### **+ PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION +**

Lord Jesus,  
in this simple meal you have set a banquet.  
Sustain us on the journey,  
strengthen us to care for the least of your beloved children,  
and give us glad and generous hearts  
as we meet you on the way.  
Amen.

### **+ SENDING FORTH AND BLESSING +**

Go into the world showing a gentle attitude toward everyone.  
Be joyful and thankful!  
Fill your mind with those things that are good and deserve praise:  
things true, noble, right, pure, lovely, and honourable.  
Put into practice  
what you have heard here.  
And may the God who gives peace be with each of you.

**We go in the peace of Christ to love and serve all creation. AMEN**

## BIBLIOGRAPHY

- Text, tune, and arrangements used by permission of Augsburg Fortress License #12387-S
- Call to Worship Litany: written by Carol Penner, and posted on Leading in Worship.
- Prayer of the Day: posted on the Diocese of Bath and Wells
- Prayers of the People: written by Rev Iain MacDonald.
- Offering Prayer: from Bread for the World's Banquet of Praise.
- Sending Forth and Blessing: from Thanksgiving Sunday: A Joyful Service of Hymn and Witness, by Kevin Little.