

Creation Care Liturgy

Created by Peace Mennonite Church in Claremont, California.

An Anabaptist Order of Worship.

In silent preparation, we light a candle to symbolize “Christ the light of the world.”

Leader: Here we are, Lord,

Disciples: *Holy Place.*

Leader: We have come to meet You.

Disciples: *Holy Time.*

Leader: We stand on Your land
Your creation, Your gift,

Disciples: *Holy Gift.*

Leader: We give thanks for Your world.
For its beauty, wonder, mystery.

Disciples: *Holy Thanks.*

Leader: Teach us to love this land
Like the Serrano, the Tongva before us and still today,
Like all who love its trees, soil, water, life

Disciples: *Holy Life.*

Leader: We pledge to care for creation,
To hold Earth in trust.

Disciples: *Holy Trust.*

Leader: We share this Earth,
With a world of peoples,
Of plants, creatures, species.
We pledge to walk gently, work humbly,

Disciples: *Holy Task.*

Leader. Unworthy, we come to worship,
In an unholy world, we seek its wholeness,

In a profane world, we seek "The Holy."

Disciples: *Holy Quest.*

Leader: In Your grace and mercy, to pledge our souls
To "the One who so loved the World."

Disciples: *Holy One.*

Leader: Bend our wills to follow Him in life,

Disciples: Bind our hearts to embrace all that is Holy.

Hymn: ***I Bind My Heart This Tide from Hymnal: A Worship Book #411***

Leader: We have come to this table,
At the invitation of Jesus, the Galilean
You are the Host, Lord Jesus

Disciples: We are Your guests.

Leader: Here at this table,

Disciples: Your loaf.

Leader: Your body broken.

**All: *Mystery of bread*
Life from the earth.
*Broken for us.***

Leader: Here at this table,

Disciples: Your cup.

Leader: Your life outpoured.

**All: *Miracle of wine*
Life from Earth's waters
*Spilled for us.***

Leader: *(Take and lift the bread in hand)*
Come, let us share His gifts of grace.

**All: With this broken bread
and in this spilled cup,
We are one with You,
One with each other,
One with all who follow You;
One with Your creation.**

Leader: Now! Here! We know You! Present!

Now! Hear! Call us to remember:

(As we take the bread, dip in the cup, each says:)

Disciples: Jesus, I remember

(We bear silent witness to each other's pledge)

Hymn Break Thou the Bread of Life from Hymnal: A Worship Book #360

Leader: Let us pray together in the manner our Lord taught us.

All: Parent above all parents,
Brother beyond all brothers.
Breathe your exquisite Spirit among us.
Sacred Nameless, Beloved Jesus, Holy Presence,
Reign over us, stand among us, breathe in us.
Work your will and way before us,
in your mercy, love and justice.
All is gift, all is grace, even our bread;
So at your table, forgiven, we forgive.
Lead us, past all alluring voices,
Save us, from wily and silly deceit.
For the reign that shall outlast all reigns,
The power that surpasses all powers,
The glory beyond time and space
Are yours, yours alone, only yours.
Amen

Hymn of choice

Leader: The Earth is the Lord's and all that is in it.
The World and those who dwell therein. (Psalm 24:1)

People: **This world is God's world.**
We share this planet,
its skies and its Earth,

**Its waters and its deserts,
its trees and its grasses,
share it with birds, fish, animals,
creatures of many forms
and with our brothers and sisters.**

Leader: For it was God who founded it, land and sea,
God who created it, set its soil beneath our feet (Psalm 24:2)

People: “God saw all that was made and behold it was very good.” (Gen. 1:30)

Leader: Can we see what we have done to this Earth?

**People: If we see what we have made of this Earth,
hope falters. Sadness overwhelms us.**

Leader: God, You gave us dominion, we turned it to domination,
You gave us stewardship, we have practiced exploitation.

People: We are polluting, destroying Your Earth.

Leader: Garbage mounts, nuclear waste threatens for centuries
Trees are cut, land erodes, fertility is reduced.

People: We are polluting, poisoning Your waters.

Leader: Plastics trash the oceans, wastes and toxic effluents
defile groundwater, lakes, rivers, and the seas.

People: We are polluting, corrupting Your skies.

Leader: Global temperatures rise, icecaps melt, ozone shield thins.
The atmosphere is irrevocably changed

**People: We leave our carbon footprints over all.
We tread on the hopes of the future.**

Leader: We have not loved the Earth as You love it.
We praise You as Creator, then despoil Your creation.

**People: Hear our confession;
See our contrition.**

Leader: We are slow to see the responsibility that is ours,
we avoid the hard questions, we fear the answers.

**People: Hear our confession;
See our contrition.**

Hymn of choice

Leader: *(Welcomes all, introduces new persons, opens a period of sharing gratitude, requests for support or prayer. The group responds to each by saying,*

Disciples: "We lift _____ into the outstretched hands of Jesus."

*May conclude with a communal prayer from **Hymnal: A Worship Book** pp. 718-747)*

Reading: *(Texts from Hebrew and/or Christian Scriptures: We hear the Word.)*

Witness: The Preached Word: Exposition, Meditation, Witness, Story

Leader: As we near the end of gathered worship,
Seeing Your reign more clearly,
Seeking to follow You more nearly,
Loving God and loving neighbor more dearly,

**Disciples: Breathe upon us again, Galilean prophet,
As You breathed upon your disciples. (John 20:22)**

Leader: Lord Jesus, breathe Your Spirit upon us.

Disciples: We breathe in the pain, suffering, sadness of this world.

Leader: We lament as we remember, this world is Your world.

Disciples: We breathe out the compassion Your Spirit inspires in us.

Leader: We lament as we remember, You love this world.

Disciples: We breathe in the greed, fear and despair polluting all around us.

Leader: We recommit as we remember, You are greater than our fears,

Disciples: We breathe out the hope, the confidence You awaken in us.

Leader: We breathe You, Breath of Peace, Wind of Eternal Love, Breath of God.

(pause in silent reflection, breathe mindfully)

Leader: The love of God, beyond Father, beyond Mother,

Disciples: The grace of Christ, our Leader, our Brother,

Leader: The koinonea of the Spirit, our Drive, our Lure,

All: Be with us as we go, and as we meet again. (2 Cor. 13:14)