



Earth Hour 2010: KAIROS liturgical resources Even the Stones Will Cry Out

When? March 27 from 8:30- 9:30PM local time, or Sunday March 28 during your regular service of worship or Mass. If you can't make Earth Hour, try Earth Week (Sunday 18 or 25 April.)

Resources and Links:

Carbon Fast for Lent 2010:

http://www.kairoscanada.org/fileadmin/fe/files/PDF/Get_involved/KairosLentResource_lettersize_web_final.pdf

Earth Hour 2009 for additional resources and songs:

http://www.kairoscanada.org/fileadmin/fe/files/PDF/Get_involved/earthHourService2009.pdf

Earth Hour Canada (World Wildlife Fund): <http://wwf.ca/earthhour/>

Notes on creating an ecumenical worship service:

<http://www.kairoscanada.org/en/worship-reflections/worship/preparing-worship/>

Materials you may need:

- * Beeswax candles for the altar or centre table (fire)
- * Hand bell or prayer bowl to use during the prayer of intercession (air)
- * Stones for the altar (earth)
- * Bowl or jug of water
- * Since March 28 is Palm Sunday, you may wish to include on the altar or hand out local evergreen branches to represent palm fronds for celebration

Scripture:

Isaiah 43: 18-21; Luke 19:28-40

Songs: See the suggested list in a separate document:

http://www.kairoscanada.org/fileadmin/fe/files/PDF/Get_involved/earthHourService2009.pdf.

Reflection time

EITHER ask one person in advance to prepare a reflection on the reading and their understanding of the purpose of "Earth Hour," OR if your group is small, share the reflection time in an informal way.

Because March 28 is Palm Sunday, you can share the Luke reading as appropriate to your setting, perhaps focusing on the final phrase: "If these were silent, even the stones would cry out." Other reflections beyond Palm Sunday can be found in *Our Oil Dilemma: Reflections and Queries* (order from <http://www.kairoscanada.org/en/publications/order-form/>)

2009 witnessed a great crying out by the world's vulnerable people as action on climate change was called for, and went unheeded by the world's wealthiest nations. 2009 saw a continued crying out on the part of Christian communities throughout Canada, expressed through the Re-energize campaign, bell-ringing, and participation in climate justice commitments both public and private.

In 2009 and 2010 the Earth continued and continues to cry out. Yet we can celebrate with hosannas the continued witness of Island nations, poor communities, Northern peoples, and Indigenous peoples, witness that calls the wealthy nations to account and challenges all of us to live more lightly on this Earth. We can celebrate their resistance to Empire and greed, as Jesus' followers did on his entry into Jerusalem.

Some questions for reflection:

- * Why are we here today?
- * What brought us to be part of this celebration?
- * How does it feel to be in our church/ home/ community hall praying by candlelight?
- * What in the reading inspires us? Challenges us? Calls us to greater commitment to the Earth community?
- * How will we act to bring this symbolic action of one hour into the rest of our lives?

Elements of worship

Prayer of Adoration for Creation: New York Board of Rabbis

God creates a Holy People for a special divine-human relationship with the critical responsibility to honor all creation so that we may "join the chorus of the universe, lands and oceans, stars and infinite space in joyous adoration."

Heavenly God, the morning stars sing together, the heavens rejoice, the earth is glad, and the people of earth chant to you a new song. Joy pervading all the earth comes from you. You bid the sun to beam over the smiling earth and you light up our hearts with gladness. Whenever our souls rejoice may we learn to feel kinship with all your natural servants and grow aware of your gentle grace

flowing within us.

Admit us into your presence in times of joy, O heavenly God. We seek you that our joys may be hallowed with you, that our happiness may be deepened, that we may join the chorus of the universe, lands and oceans, the stars and infinite space in joyous adoration.

*In Philip Goodman, A Treasury of Jewish Inspiration (New York: The New York Board of Rabbis, 1962). Adapted. Found in **Feast of the Universe Prayers**; cleared for use in a worship setting. (<http://leaderresources.org/feastoftheuniverse/?return=liturgy>)*

Lighting of the Christ candle

(Invite children, teens and elders to read.)

Voice 1: As we light this beeswax candle, a renewable energy source, we are reminded of the bush that burned but was not consumed. And God was present.

Voice 2: As we gather as a community to worship, let us trust and follow the voice of God in our midst. The Holy Spirit is present.

Voice 3: As we light this Christ candle, we confront injustice and walk the path of peace in these days and nights of Lent. And Jesus is ever present with us.

Voice 1: Let our ways be challenged, our minds engaged, and our spirits lifted at this sacred time, on this holy ground. Let us raise our voices in a shout for justice. Let us praise the God who leads us into paths of right relationship.

AMEN

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Your Word of Creation *(Author unknown)*

This prayer comes from Samoa where the island people live close to the sea which—due to climate change and rising sea temperatures—is rising higher and higher each year, devouring more and more of the land.

Almighty God, your word of creation
caused the water to be filled
with many kinds of living beings
and the air to be filled with birds.
With those who live in this world's small islands
we rejoice in the richness of your creation,
and we pray for your wisdom
for all who live on this earth,
that we may wisely care for and not destroy what you have made

for us and for our descendants. Amen.

*“Your Word of Creation,” © The Uniting Church in Australia Assembly Commission on Liturgy. Found in **Feast of the Universe Prayers**; cleared for use in a worship setting. (<http://leaderresources.org/feastoftheuniverse/?return=liturgy>)*

Collect

God, our Creator, as we reflect on the mystery of our fragile planet we celebrate the wonders of Earth as our home. Help us to discern how we have polluted our planet and to empathise with the groaning of creation. Teach us to sense the presence of God pulsing through Earth as a living green blue sanctuary. Teach us to love Earth as our home. In the name of Christ, the Word of God, who is the creative impulse in all creation. Amen.

(Planet Earth Sunday, Australia. Cleared for use in a worship setting. (<http://www.seasonofcreation.com/liturgies/earth/Liturgy%20-%20Planet%20Earth%20Sunday%202.pdf>)

Intercessions

(From the Universal Day of Prayer for Students 2010, World Student Christian Federation, with additions by KAIROS)

The prayers we say are reminders of our fears about climate change and our hopes for climate justice. We pray to the God over us and the same God who is within us through the Spirit that empowers us for action.

At the end of every response, we will sit in silence and then a bell will be rung once to remind us of the more than 400 churches across Canada who rang their bells 350 times this past December, calling on the government leaders meeting at the UN Climate Conference to come to a just and meaningful agreement to cut greenhouse gas emissions. We will then say together: **Giver of life, sustain your creation**

We begin with a reminder from Indigenous people of planet Earth, taken from the Indigenous Peoples’ Statement to the Ninth General Assembly of the World Council of Churches, Porto Alegre Brazil, 2006:

“...As caretakers of the earth our mother, we Indigenous peoples have observed and experienced the degradation of creation. We have experienced the highest levels of environmental racism. Despite pretences, all of humankind lives in absolute reliance upon nature. Because Indigenous communities live in intimate relation with the land and seas, we are the first peoples affected by the destruction of the creation. We know, however, that what happens to the least of these will also affect all.” (A bell is rung)

(After a time of silence the prayer leader says: **Let us pray**)

Creator, we begin with prayers for the “least of these” who are greatest in your sight. We pray for vulnerable, poor and devastated communities who are already suffering the effects of climate change *(Silence, then a bell is rung)*

ALL: Giver of life, sustain your creation

For the land, the waters, the islands, the air, the animals and plants which struggle for survival as a result of human greed and abuse. Silently or aloud we name lands and creatures that are especially under threat. *(Silence, then a bell is rung)*

Giver of life, sustain your creation

We pray for industrialised nations which urgently need to make adjustments to their lifestyles and adopt strong environmental policies. We pray that we will be moved to press our Canadian governments to adopt just and strong environmental policies. *(Silence, then a bell is rung)*

Giver of life, sustain your creation

For those developing nations whose national economy is largely dependent on earning from export crude petroleum and other polluting substances, who will have to diversify their economies. *(Silence, then a bell is rung)*

Giver of life, sustain your creation

For an increase in solidarity in all your people, and practical support with those communities most affected by climate change. *(Silence, then a bell is rung)*

Giver of life, sustain your creation

For ourselves, that we may change our lives to be in harmony with creation and that we may work for climate justice for all people. *(Silence, then a bell is rung)*

Giver of life, sustain your creation

All these prayers we bring together in the prayer Jesus teaches us (said in unison)

The Lord’s Prayer (Aotearoa/ New Zealand)

Eternal Spirit

Earth-Maker, Pain-bearer, Life-giver,
source of all that is and that shall be,
Father and Mother of us all.

Loving God, in whom is heaven.

The hallowing of your name echoes through
the universe!

The way of your justice be followed by the peoples
of the earth!

Your heavenly will be done by all created beings!

Your commonwealth of peace and freedom

sustain our hope and come on earth.

With the bread we need for today, feed us.
In the hurts we absorb from one another, forgive us.
In times of temptation and test, spare us.
From the grip of all that is evil, free us.

For you reign in the glory of the power that is love,
now and forever.

Amen.

New Zealand Prayer Book -Rev ed.: He Karakia Mihinare O Aotearoa. Church of the Province of New Zealand(Anglican)

Benediction: May God Free You (*Rev. Desmond Tutu, retired Archbishop of Capetown*)
Even before he became the Archbishop of Capetown, Desmond Tutu was a fighter against all form of oppression. His unequivocal voice helped to bring down apartheid in South Africa in the 1980s. A Nobel Peace laureate (1984), Desmond Tutu continues to work to ameliorate suffering in all its forms, including the suffering earth. He said, "Freedom and liberty lose out because good people are not vigilant."

One: May God free you;
may God guard you night and day.

**ALL: May God set you in your right place,
and may you spread out like the grass of the prairie.**

One: Spread out like palm leaves; continue your walk,
and may life be with you.

ALL: May God place you where God's stars are placed at dawn and night.

One: Spread out like water of a lake.
Be numerous like the feet of a millipede.
May God raise you up above everything.
Spread out like the water of a lake.

ALL: Be abundance that never ends, that never changes.

One: Be like a mountain.
Be like a camel.
Be like a cloud—a cloud that always brings rain.

ALL: And God promised that it would be so. May we go in peace to love God and serve creation.

*Found in **Feast of the Universe Prayers**; cleared for use in a worship setting.*

(<http://leaderresources.org/feastoftheuniverse/?return=liturgy>)