

A Liturgy for Outdoor Ministries Sunday
July 9, 2017
Billy Price

Call to Worship

Leader: As the sun rises, and a new day is born

People: Creation awakes and sings your praises

Leader: In the mid-day, God's love nourishes the earth

People: Creation joyfully receives God's blessing of life

Leader: As day comes to an end, the breath of God sweeps over land and water,

People: New voices join the chorus

Leader: During the night, under a vast, starlit sky

People: Creation is healed and finds rest in the peace of God.

All: Let us join all of creation and worship the Living God!

Call to Confession

All of creation relies on God's love and generosity. Being a part of creation ourselves, we recognize our need for God. Let us now humble ourselves and confess our sins before God.

Prayer of Confession (unison)

O God of life, you have created us and cared for us all the days of our lives.

There are signs of plentiful life all around us.

**Trees stretch over us, flowers bloom around us, living creatures cross our paths—
but we don't see them.**

**Birds sing tunes above us, crickets conduct symphonies below us,
living creatures buzz past us—but we don't listen to them.**

**You shower the earth to sustain it and bring forth new life—
but we curse rainy days.**

Forgive us, Lord.

**We get so caught up in the negativity of our busy schedules
that we fail to acknowledge your goodness all around us.**

Forgive our blindness and our deafness.

**Fix our eyes to see and tune our ears to hear the message
of your love in the world around us.**

Help us to reflect your love of the world. In Christ's name, Amen.

Assurance of Pardon

All of creation is drenched in God's grace. Being a part of God's creation, we gratefully receive God's grace, especially in the form of Jesus. Hear the Good News: in Jesus Christ, we are forgiven and offered new life. Thanks be to God!

Prayer for Illumination

Come, Holy Spirit. As you hovered over the waters and gently whispered near the mountain, blow through this place. Turn this ground into holy ground. Holy God, open our eyes, that we may be aware of your presence. Open our ears, that we may hear your call. O God, open our hearts, that we might open our arms to show your love and mercy to others. Come, Holy Spirit. We are listening. Amen.

Scripture Possibilities for the Sermon

- **Psalm 65**

Prayers of the People

God of life, you created humankind in your image and said that it was good.
You remain near to us and hear us when we pray.

We pray for your creation...

that we may be good stewards of your good earth.

We pray for global and national leaders,

that they may humbly seek your wisdom and guidance
as they govern over and influence the lives of so many people.

We pray for local leaders...

that they may humbly listen to the concerns of their neighbors and help meet local needs.

We pray for those who are affected by broken homes and relationships...

that they may find peace, strive to forgive, and be reminded of your reconciling love.

We pray for those who are imprisoned and isolated from society...

that they seek your forgiveness and know that they are not forgotten.

We pray for those battling addictions...

that their struggle may be understood, and that they may find the help they seek.

We pray for those facing illness or death...

that they may rest assured in the healing promise of your abundant life and resurrection.

We pray for those who are caretakers...

that they may be cared for and know the importance of their work.

We pray for those experiencing oppression...

that they may renew their strength and endure in their battle against unjust forces.

We pray for those whose reality is one of hunger and poverty...

that they may be remembered and cared for by neighbors who have plenty.

We pray for those who have no place to call home...

that they may know you have not forgotten them

and that their prayers and cries to be heard and understood don't go ignored.

O God, we pray for your Church, that we may live more fully into our calling:

- to offer hospitality to the stranger,
- to stand up and seek justice for those who are oppressed,
- to visit the sick and imprisoned,
- to care for the poor and needy,
- to show mercy and love to our neighbors,
- and to love you with our whole being.

Triune God, unite us all as you are united.

We ask this in the name of Christ,
who taught his disciples to pray, saying, "Our Father..."

Invitation to the Offering

Open your eyes! Look around! God created all of this. We don't have to look hard to see that we are surrounded by God's blessings. With thankful hearts, let us worship God by offering our gifts.

Prayer of Thanksgiving

O God, from whom all blessings flow, you have sent your son to give us life, and life abundantly. We follow his call, and we seek to be a part of your reconciliation and renewal for the world. Bless these gifts, Lord. Turn this money into ministry, and guide us in our efforts to use it responsibly and according to your will. In the name of Christ, we pray. Amen.

Benediction

May you go with a heightened awareness of God's presence all around you.
May you go with peace, knowing you are surrounded by God's love.
And may you go to love and serve the Lord all the days of your life.
In the name of the God the Creator, Redeemer, and Sustainer. Amen.