

Pause for silent prayer (15 sec)

Reader 3: Together we pray ...

**ALL: Forgive us O God: we have chosen death.
We long for healing: we choose your life.**

When fire symbol is put in place, fire pot is also lit with butane lighter. When the person has moved to the side, "water" is poured into larger waiting bowl in a dramatic way)

Reader 1: I offer water to drink and cleanse;
to be the veins and arteries of the land;
I offer strong waves for energy,
and still lakes for calm of spirit.

Reader 2: I pollute water with waste from the mines and
factories, that it may kill the fish, be bitter to
drink, and carry disease.
I withdraw water from the land and make a
desert;
I extend the waters of the sea and drown cities.

Leader: O God, fountain of living waters,
we confess that we are cracked cisterns.
lacking stillness to listen to your word,
and energy to act on it.

Pause for silent prayer (15 sec)

Reader 3: Together we pray ...

**ALL: Forgive us O God: we have chosen death.
We long for healing: we choose your life.**

Water is put in place, then three with the cross comes to the center and hold it upright.

Leader: God of earth, air, fire, and water,
we surrender to you our broken humanity.
We know we are a people redeemed by your blood,
shed on the cross for us.
The cross! ... product of the four elements
The cross! ... on which you stretched out your arms between heaven and earth
in an everlasting sign of your covenant love.
The cross! ... upon which your suffering, our suffering and the suffering of

our earth are joined.

The cross! ... a Tree of Life whose branches of mercy overshadow and redeem us.

The cross! ... hope of our resurrection and new creation.

Pause for silent prayer (15 sec)

Reader 3: Together we pray our final response ... *(lead them in the final response below)*

**ALL: Christ, firstfruit of the new creation,
we would rise with you.
We would be born anew.
Send us your Spirit to renew the face of our earth.**

The three lean the cross against the stage in a prearranged place. Then all procession people leave the stage.

Leader sits and (if necessary) gestures for all to be seated. Lights in front are reduced again, as at the beginning.

Meditation on Genesis 1:

Readers remain in place for this reading, seated in the assembly. For this reading, Reader 3 is a narrator and can be either male or female; Readers 1 and 2 play the role of "God" and one voice should be male and one female.

The entire reading is accompanied by the a powerpoint of images of creation.

Reader 3: At the beginning of God's creating
of the heavens and the earth,
when the earth was wild and waste,
darkness over the face of Ocean,
rushing-spirit of God hovering over the face of the waters

(pause a beat)

Reader 2 *(strong and joyful, emphasize each word)*: Let there be light!

Reader 3: And there was light.

God saw the light: that it was good.

Sung Response (vs. 2)

Young Adults (18-40): And God saw that humans were loving the entire creation, the stars and the sun, the day and the night, the air and the oceans, the earth and the waters, the fish and the birds, the flowers and the herbs, and all their human brothers and sisters.
And God said: *That is good.*
And it was the third day of the Earth of Joy.

Sung Response (vs. 3)

Wisdom Adults (Over 40): And God saw that humans were suppressing hunger, disease, ignorance and suffering all over the globe, providing each human person with a decent, conscious and happy life, and reducing the greed and undue influence of those with exorbitant wealth.
And God said: *That is good.*
And it was the fourth day of the Earth of Justice.

Sung Response (vs. 4)

Parents (& Children): And God saw that humans were living in harmony with their planet and in peace with one another, wisely managing their resources, avoiding waste, curbing excesses, replacing hatred with love, greed with contentment, arrogance with humility, division with cooperation, and mistrust with understanding.
And God said: *That is good.*
And it was the fifth day of the new Ecosystems of the Earth.

Sung Response (vs. 5)

Single Persons: And God saw that the people's efforts at diplomacy, justice, and care for creation turned the hearts of vengeful people from hate, to understanding, and, finally, after much work, to love. Faith, hope and love replaced mistrust, fear and hurt.
And God said: *That is good.*
And it was the sixth day of the Earth of Cooperation and Reason.

Sung Response (vs. 6)

All Ministers: And God saw humans restore God and the dignity of the human person and creation as the Alpha and Omega, placing institutions, beliefs, politics,

governments, and all human entities in the service of God, the people, and the planet.

And God saw them adopt as their supreme law: “You shall love God with all your heart, all your soul, all your mind, and all your strength. You shall love your neighbor as yourself. There is no greater commandment than these.”

And God said: *That is very good.*

And it was the seventh day of the Earth of God.

Sung Response (vs. 1)

Closing Blessing

Leader: The Spirit and the bride say, “Come!”

ALL: And let everyone who hears say, “Come.”

Leader: The one who testifies to these things says, “Surely I am coming soon.”

ALL: Amen. Come Lord Jesus!

Leader: The grace of Jesus Christ be with us all!

ALL: Amen.

Closing Song

During the Song, Leader exits the stage gracefully.

2. *Seed that dies to rise in glory, may we see ourselves in you.
If we learn to live your story, we may die to rise anew.*
3. *We remember truth once spoken, love passed on thru' act and word;
Ev'ry person lost and broken wears the body of our Lord.*
4. *Gentle Jesus, mighty Spirit, come inflame our hearts anew;
We may all your joy inherit, if we bear the cross with you.*
5. *Christ you lead and we shall follow, stumbling tho' our steps may be;
One with you in joy and sorrow; we the river, you the sea.*

Prayer

The leaders then begin the multi-lingual opening prayer / litany.

Projection: *First section of the prayer for people to read / respond*

English Leader: Let us all pray together ...

All: Dear Jesus, our journey through life is long and hard.
We cannot make this trip alone;
we must walk together on the journey.
You promised to send us a helper, your Spirit.
Help us to see your Spirit in those you send to journey with us.

Projection: *Advance prayer slide*

English Leader: In the refugee family, seeking safety from violence,

All: Let us see your Spirit.

Spanish Leader: *En el trabajador migrante, llevando comida a nuestras mesas,*

All: Let us see your Spirit.

French Leader: *Dans les demandeurs d'asile, qui cherchent la justice pour eux et pour leurs familles*

All: Let us see your Spirit.

English Leader: In the unaccompanied child, traveling in a dangerous world,

All: Let us see your Spirit.

All: Teach us to recognize that as we walk with each other,
You are present.

Projection: Advance prayer slide

English Leader: Dear Jesus, you were once a migrant too. Guide us along safe paths, protect us from evil, and free us from all fear.

We pray together our response in Spanish:
Muéstranos el camino.

All: *Muéstranos el camino.*

Spanish Leader: *Enséñanos a dar la bienvenida a los extranjeros
a los inmigrantes, a los refugiados, a las personas desplazadas
y a todos nuestros hermanos y hermanas en su trayectoria.*

All: *Muéstranos el camino.*

Projection: Advance prayer slide

French Leader: *Aidez-nous à obtenir justice pour les opprimés,
de réconforter les affligés,
et à offrir l'espoir et la guérison à tous ceux que
nous rencontrons sur la route.*

All: *Muéstranos el camino.*

English Leader: Help us to recognize that the only path to you is the way of justice. Strengthen us to make straight the way before our immigrant, refugee, and displaced brothers and sisters.

All: *Muéstranos el camino.*

All: Teach us to welcome not only the strangers in our midst
but the gifts they bring as well:
the invitation to conversion, communion, and solidarity.

Projection: Advance prayer slide

Ecumenical Advocacy Days 2011
Development Security and Economic Justice: What's Gender Got To Do With It?
Opening Worship
Friday, March 25, 2011

Call to Worship

Leaders go to center of space where a large central candle (or several candles) are located. As they do this, cantor leads the assembly (still seated) in a short meditative refrain about light. As this is being done they light the candle(s). The leaders then invite all (still seated) to the prayer, recited by different groups of the assembly as noted.

LEADER(s): Let us pray.

WOMEN: Blessed be she who kindles the flames of creation.

MEN: Blessed be he who sparks the imagination.

ALL: **Blessed are those who weave the threads of light throughout the generations, who turn our longing for peace and justice into illumination.**

Leaders then raise their arms in a sweeping gesture to invite all to stand. As the music begins, these leaders exit the stage.

Gathering Procession

Song: Siyahamba / We Are Marching (trad. South African)

Prayer of Wisdom and the Wise Woman

Adapted from "Afterword: To Wisdom" in Women of the Word by Mary Lou Sleevi (South Bend: Ave Maria Press, 1989) and Proverbs 31

Sung Response: May You Cling to Wisdom (Text: Based on Proverbs 4, adapted by Steven C. Warner. Text & Music © 1993, World Library Publications)

LEADER (f): We continue our prayer.

LEADER (f): As it is written,
I call you my sister.

LEADER (m): You are pure and simple ... Wisdom ...
so young and so old.
Renewing all things, you never change.

LEADER (f): You received the Artist's commission

You were present in God's First Word of light.

READER (f): She does good, and not harm, all the days of her life.
She seeks wool and flax, and works with willing hands.

READER (m): She is like the ships of the merchant fleet,
she brings her food from far away.

She rises while it is still night
and provides for her household.

LEADER (f): With sun, moon and stars,
you take precedence.
You who designed them clearly outshine them.
The void never prevails over Wisdom.

SUNG RESPONSE

LEADER (m): You selected God's works:
all your play was creative.

You ambled all over the earth,
delighting with children.

You who radiate rainbows,
Recreate us today, so wrinkled with stress.

We call you who call us, all-pervading pure light,
Alight on THIS MOMENT,
on your people gathered here.

Image of Goodness,
you produce prophets and friends of God.
Cause us to see them.
Cause us to *be them*.
Incite us!
Make stars in our eyes!

Lyrics from your Song
flow into ours ...

SUNG RESPONSE

READER (f): She considers a field and buys it
with the fruit of her hands she plants a vineyard.

LEADER (f): Your brilliance is companionship with God.
It leads to all good things.

Aura of the Power of God,
Imbue imagination.
Inspire ideals.
Emanation of Glory,
Inhabit.
Instill.

READER (m): She girds herself with strength and makes her arms strong.
She perceives what she has made is valuable.
Her lamp does not go out at night.

She opens her hand to the poor,
and reaches out her hands to the needy.

LEADER (f): Spotless Mirror of the Workings of God,
Infiltrate the works of Justice and Peace.
Shine on those who dwell in drear and despair.
Draw up those crushed beneath discrimination's decimation.
Illumine the path where hate and hurt can be transformed by your
Brilliant Spectacle.

Reflection of Eternal Light,
Illumine love,
in us and from us, forever And... RIGHT ... NOW.

SUNG RESPONSE

LEADER (m): Gift of God, you gift God with a prism,
suffusing,
diffusing
the whole Spectrum of Color. Colors of life.

With your vision from heights,
you perceive the harmony of the whole.
You dance with evening stars,
and repeatedly make mornings.

LEADER (f): But when things are in heaven, who can search them out?

READER (f): She makes herself coverings,
Strength and dignity are her clothing,
and she laughs at the time to come.

READER (m): She opens her mouth with ... WISDOM ...
And the teaching of kindness is on her tongue.