



Kathy Harris

A Season of Creation at Grace Church

The Word of God

Opening Acclamation

Celebrant Blessed be the One who creates all things.

People The Holy One's love is new every morning.

Song of Praise

Salutation

Celebrant The Creator be with you.

People And also with you.

Celebrant Let us pray.

The Collect of the Day

The Lessons and Gospel

The Sermon

An Affirmation of Faith *(Colossians 1:15-20)*

Jesus Christ is the image of the invisible God,
the firstborn of all creation.

For in him all things in heaven and on earth were created:
things visible and invisible,

whether thrones or dominions or rulers or powers;
 all things have been created through him and for him.
 He himself is before all things,
 and in him all things hold together.
 And he is the head of the body, the church;
 he is the beginning, the firstborn from among the dead,
 so that he might come to have first place in everything.
 For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell,
 and through him God was pleased
 to reconcile to himself all things,
 whether on earth or in heaven,
 by making peace through the blood of his cross.

The Prayers of the People

Honoring God in Creation *Form 2*

(During the silence after each bidding, the people may offer their own prayers, either silently or aloud)

In the beginning,
God was.

Here and now,
God is.

In the future,
God will be.

Creator of earth, sea, and sky, kindle the fire of your Spirit within us
 that we may be bold to heal and defend the earth, and pour your
 blessing upon all who work for the good of the planet.

Silence

God, Giver of life,
Hear our prayer.

Breath of life, receive our thanks for the beauty of our local habitat and all who dwell in it, and grant us the wisdom and will to conserve it.

Silence

God, Giver of life,
Hear our prayer.

Source of life, heal and redeem the wounds of your creation, and visit the places and people who suffer from our indifference, neglect, and greed.

Silence

God, Giver of life,
Hear our prayer.

Lover of all you have made, we thank you for the wondrous diversity of your creatures, and we pray for their well-being.

Silence

God, Giver of life,
Hear our prayer.

Author of the book of nature, receive our gratitude for places of restoration and healing, and continue to bless those places that feed our lives and spirits.

Silence

God, Giver of life,
Hear our prayer.

Wise Creator, whose works are full of mystery, give us wonder and appreciation for your creatures with whom we find ourselves in conflict.

Silence

God, Giver of life,
Hear our prayer.

Giver of all good gifts, awaken us daily to our dependence upon your bounty, and make us always thankful for the abundance of your blessings.

Silence

God, Giver of life,
Hear our prayer.

Divine Physician, heal our communities, especially those where neglect, greed, or violence inflict suffering upon people and other creatures.

Silence

God, Giver of life,
Hear our prayer.

Comforter of all the earth, sustain the people of this congregation who desire or need your presence and help [especially ____].

Silence

God, Giver of life,
Hear our prayer.

Rock and refuge of all your creatures, receive into everlasting mercy
all those who have died [especially_____].

Silence

God, Giver of life,
Hear our prayer.

The Celebrant concludes the Prayers with a suitable collect.

Confession of Sin

Celebrant:

Let us confess our sins against God and God's creation.

All:

Merciful and sustaining God, we have sinned against you.

We confess our lack of gratitude.

for the beauty and bounty of your creation:

teach us to see that your earth sustains us

and all that lives.

We Confess that we have misused your earth:

grant us amendment of life.

We confess that we have been intemperate in our appetites:

strengthen us in self-control.

We confess that we have taken the abundance of your world

for granted: make us urgent now for its protection.

Forgive and renew us now through our Savior Jesus Christ,

by the power of the Holy Spirit, with whom you live
and reign, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

(The celebrant stands and gives the absolution.)

The Peace

All stand. The Presider says one of the following

<i>Celebrant</i>	The God of heaven has made a home on earth.
<i>All</i>	Christ dwells among us and is one with us.
<i>Celebrant</i>	The peace of Christ be always with you.
<i>People</i>	And also with you.

The Holy Communion

The Eucharistic Prayer

<i>Celebrant</i>	The Lord be with you.
<i>People</i>	And also with you.
<i>Celebrant</i>	Lift up your hearts.
<i>People</i>	We lift them to the Creator.
<i>Celebrant</i>	Let us give thanks to our loving God.
<i>People</i>	It is right to give God thanks and praise.

Because in the mystery of Christ's incarnation you have gathered into
one things earthly and heavenly, calling your people to be ministers of
reconciliation and to proclaim the Good News to all creation.

It is right in all times and in all places to thank and praise you Creator of all. We praise you here where the foothills tumble down from the blue ridge. We praise you at a time when the body of earth is broken again and again.

We give thanks for our place in the story of salvation. Our ancestors journeyed with you in creation and migration. They depended on the land, were displaced from the land and displaced others from their lands. We give thanks for this land the home of the Saluda people and the Cherokee nation, humanity displaced over and over. We give thanks for this property of Grace Church donated by Daniel Brown. Our forebears knew you in tents and cities, on mountains and by wells, in families and in dreams, and through wilderness prophets who spoke of cedars and listened to ravens.

Together with angels, with the unbroken circle of generations, with carolina wren and jessamine, with gray fox and golden rod, with opossum and loblolly, and with gray squirrel and magnolia, we join our voices with all creation in this ancient holy song:

The people join in the Sanctus

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.

Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest.

We give thanks to you for Jesus, whose first bed was a feed trough. He was baptized in the Jordan, tested in the wilderness, he traveled in fishing boats and told parables of famers and seeds, labor and wages, yeast and bread.

On the night before he died, Jesus took bread, food of the poor, the work of field and hearth, he gave thanks, broke it and gave it to his friends saying: Take and eat, this is my body, given for you, do this to remember me.

Again after supper he took the cup of wine, fruit of the land, gave thanks and gave it to his friends saying: This is my blood, which is shed for you. When you do this, do it in memory of me.

Remembering Jesus' life, death and resurrection and awaiting his coming kingdom, we offer you this bread and this cup.

Creator, send your Spirit on these gifts so that we know Jesus in them and are gathered together with everyone who shares this sacred meal of justice and community.

Fill us with the courage and love of Jesus, that we may strive for justice and peace, respect the dignity of every human being, and safeguard the integrity of creation.

Bring us with the Evangelists Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John, with Francis and Clare and all your saints to your commonwealth of sparrow and lily, child and beggar which is both now and yet to come.

All honor and glory are yours, Creator, Christ, and Spirit, now and forever. AMEN.

The Lord's Prayer

As the Wisdom before Creation teaches us, we together now pray.

Holy One, dearest Abba, hallowed be your name.
 May your day dawn, your will be done,
 here as in heaven.
 Feed us today,
 and forgive us as we forgive each other.
 Do not forsake us at the test,
 but deliver us from evil.
 For the glory, the power, and the mercy are yours, now and for ever.
 Amen.

Fraction Anthem

Celebrant Alleluia. This is Living Bread, given for all.
People All who eat this bread share in Christ's Body. Alleluia.

All Baptized Christians are welcome to receive the sacrament at Grace Church.

A Postcommunion Prayer

Holy One,
 you feed us with bread from heaven and the gifts of mother earth.
 We give you thanks and we adore you.
 In this communion, you have drawn us into your embrace and you call
 us to friendship with one another.
 You have given us the gift of reconciliation.
 May we who have tasted that gift from you,
 offer ourselves in peace and humility to one another.
 And may you always walk among us as friend. Amen.

The Blessing

The Sending

<i>Celebrant</i>	Let us bless the Author of Life.
<i>People</i>	Thanks be to God.