

Words of Renewal

God of life and God of light, as we seek a new relationship with your created order, may we sense the grace and peace of a new relationship with You. Amen.

An Acrostic Prayer*

written for the 2002 World Summit on Sustainable Development

Creating God, you have given us a vision of a new heaven and a new earth...

Resources conserved

Earth tended

Atmosphere cleansed

Trees planted

Injustice ended

Oceans teeming

Nations at peace

Creator, Redeemer, Sustainer

Alert nations, enthuse churches

Receive our commitment and so entwine our lives with Your purpose.

Earth and heaven will then sing of your glory. Amen.

Our Father, who art in heaven...

Hallowed be Your name...

Your Kingdom come...

Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven...

Give us this day our daily bread...

Forgive us our trespasses...

As we forgive those who trespass against us...

Lead us not into temptation...

And deliver us from evil...

For Yours is the Kingdom...

The Power and the Glory...

For ever and ever...

Amen.

You are also at home in the air, soil, forests and oceans,

By the care we take of your creation,

All that you see is good,

Your will to till and care.

That all may have sufficient to live life in fullness

our greed, our exploitation, our lack of concern for other species and for future generations,

by reconciliation with justice and peace.

the temptation to equate dominion with exploitation,

the evil of destroying your gift of creation,

Yours Lord, not ours,

in the cross and the resurrection,

You were the beginning and you are the end.

And so be it.

Dismissal

May God who established the dance of creation,
Who marvelled at the lilies of the field,
Who transforms chaos to order,
Lead us to transform our lives and the Church
To reflect God's glory in creation.

Blessing

As the air sings with songs of glory,
as the water flashes with the silver of creation,
as the forests bloom with leaves for the healing of nations,
so may God's light and love,
fill our hearts and souls and minds.

Creation in Reverse?

The following story was told by Jennifer Potter at the 2000 Methodist Conference and was drawn from a Radio 4 'Thought for the Day' given by Colin Morris. It was inspired after Colin Morris had watched tonnes of rock fall into the sea near Beachy Head - a process accelerated by global warming and the subsequent rise in sea-level.

"If the Bible were to be rewritten for the twentieth century, it would have to begin not like the original one with Genesis, the story of how God created the world, but with a sort of Genesis in reverse, the story of how we, humankind, dismantled it. It would tell of the pollution of the air and of the seas and rivers, of the piling up of waste materials from an ever-expanding consumer society and of the diminishing varieties of plants and animals. It would tell of the enormous difference between those human beings who have too much and those who barely survive. It would end with a ravished and uninhabited Earth, made uninhabitable by humankind itself. God would shake his head sadly, realising that he had to start all over again."

The prodigal race

There was once a ruler who had two sons. The younger said to the ruler:

"Let me have my share of the property".

After a few days the younger son took his property and got busy – releasing the assets to create wealth for his use. He dug for coal, drilled for gas and oil and used the wealth released to go on a spending spree: fast cars, holidays across the world and every kind of

modern convenience. The more he had, the more he wanted – he enjoyed every new gadget, unconcerned that the more he used, the inheritance that he would pass on to his own children would change from a fruitful world to one laid to waste.

If the story ended now, would he come to his senses before it was too late?

When one machine wore out, a new one was ordered and he amassed more and more until one day, his oil well ran dry, his coal was exhausted and he realised he had spent his inheritance and scarred the earth. He sat amidst the waste, thinking of the life that those in his father's community lived, and he wondered if it was too late to say sorry.

What the Lord Creates

Praise him, Praise him, Praise the Lord
For the wonders of the world

For the people big and small
For the animals short and tall
We will care for all these things
That our Lord Creator brings.

Praise him, Praise him, Praise the Lord
For the wonders of the world

For the sea and for the sky
For the animals and birds that fly
We will care for all these things
That our Lord Creator brings

Praise him, Praise him, Praise the Lord
For the wonders of the world

For the seasons of the year
For the plants that re-appear
We will care for all these things
That our Lord Creator brings

Tune: Twinkle, twinkle little star

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The hymn was the winner in the
Children's Class of the CEL Hymn
Writing Competition.

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