

Confession and Lament for Creation

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Oh God of time and space, we confess we are running out of both.
Species whirling into extinction faster than ever before.
Habitat created over millennia
destroyed in the blink of an eye.
Sea levels rising, threatening, moving closer
and the poor and the powerless and the voiceless taste the bitter salt.

Oh God of time and space, we confess we are running out of both.

Oh God of hope and Resurrection,
We confess to despair that creates the denial of a Good Friday world.
We tremble on the brink of the temptation to simply give up.

Oh God of transformation, we confess to choosing Business as Usual
because it is easier,
because it hurts too much to care,
because we don't want to give up what we have,
because we are afraid.

Oh God of deep sighing, these are our prayers.

And we know it is not only from you we need to ask forgiveness, but from all your creation.
You Maui dolphins, Bryde's whales and Teviot Galaxias
Forgive us, we pray;
You Kauri giants, Limestone Cress and Eyelash Seaweed,
Forgive us, we pray;
You White Herons, Black Stilts and Fairy Terns
Forgive us, we pray;
You Archey's frogs, Chesterfield Skinks and Knobbled Weevils
Forgive us, we pray;
You Southern Elephant Seals, Short-tailed Bats, and Stag Beetles
Forgive us, we pray;
Oh air that we breathe, oceans that give us life, mountaintops of Aotearoa,
Forgive us, we pray.

Remake us, oh Creator. Transform us into a new being.
Open us to your love which can open our eyes and our hearts.
Give us courage to walk in your path with all creation.
Forgive us and make us free, for healing and for hope.

Amen.

This prayer can be used in any number of ways. One way it could be used would be to have the congregation silently read it as part of a meditative, reflective time, or split up as several smaller prayers during the service of worship. The "forgive us, we pray" section could be changed to simply have members of the congregation call out names or issues like the ones in the prayer instead of just reading what is written here.