

Sending Forth: Acts of Commitment

Creator God, you are worthy of our praise and worship. Make us worthy of the world in which you have placed us. Empower us in our stewardship of your garden and in spreading your redeeming love. Amen.

Take Action to Protect God's Oceans

Recycle or dispose of trash properly.

Every year, millions of pounds of trash degrade habitat and can strangle, poison, or otherwise harm ocean wildlife.

Reduce your energy consumption.

Air pollution particles created from power plants and automobiles fall into the ocean in raindrops, polluting the water with excess nitrogen and contaminating fish with toxic mercury.

Reduce the use of pesticides and fertilizers.

Runoff from lawns, farms, streets, parking lots, and construction sites is a major source of ocean pollution.


Enjoy Responsible Recreation.

Ocean lovers spend a lot of time on, in, and under the water. How you engage in these activities determines whether your impact is negative or positive.

For more information on how you can protect God's oceans visit the National Council of Churches Eco-Justice Program website at www.ncccojustice.org or call 202-544-2350 ext. 27.

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National Council of Churches Eco-Justice Programs
Earth Day Sunday • April 25, 2005



The oceans, teeming with sea life, vibrant coral communities, and vast beauty, are part of God's treasured creation. When God created the oceans, God declared them "good." As God's children we receive the oceans' bounty on our tables and experience the ocean's beauty as we participate in recreation activities. As God's stewards, we are called not only to enjoy the oceans, but also to care for them as a sacred gift from God. Because we are people of God, we are to maintain the bounty of the oceans' waters and the integrity of oceanic systems that support an abundance of life and an untold wealth of beauty.

Call to Worship

Praise the Lord from the heavens, praise God in the heights above.

Praise God, all God's heavenly hosts.

Praise the Creator of sun and moon, praise God, all you shining stars.

Praise the Lord, you highest heavens, and you waters above the skies.

Let them praise the name of the Lord, for the Lord commanded and they were created.

God set them in place for ever and ever; God gave a decree that will never pass away.

Praise the Lord from the earth, you great sea creatures and all ocean depths. *—based on Psalm 148*

O Lord, how manifold are your works! In wisdom you have made them all; the earth is full of your creatures. Yonder is the sea, great and wide, teeming with creatures beyond number, living things both large and small. There the ships go to and fro, and the leviathan, which you formed to frolic there.

—based on Psalm 104:24-26

Responsive Prayer of Praise

Creator God, who alone stretches out the heavens and treads on the waves of the sea, whose Spirit moved over the face of the waters, who gathers the seas into their places, who made the great creatures of the sea with which the water teems.

Praise to the Lord!

Creator God, create in us such a sense of wonder and delight in this gift of water and all your gifts, that we might receive them with gratitude, care for them with love and generously share them with all your creatures, to the honor and glory of your holy name.

Praise You, O Lord!

(adapted from litany by John Paarlberg)

Prayer of Confession

God of sea and sky, we see something of your awesome power and recognize our own weakness and limitations.

God of sunshine and birdsong, of calm mists and warm breezes. We see something of your overwhelming love and recognize our own unworthiness.



May we recognize you within the elements of your created world and be grateful.

All: O Lord, grant us wisdom and gratitude.

Exposed by the brightness of your Glory, the exuberance of your creative Spirit, our lives can look so barren, so shallow.

All: Creator God, create a right spirit within us.

Exposed by the inclusiveness of your love, by your willingness to give your own Son not just for one people but for all people the brokenness of our communities is reconciled.

All: O God, teach us how to love.

Exposed by the humility of your Son, who came to earth as Servant King, washing feet rather than waging war, our selfishness is evident.

All: God of all, help us to serve.

Creator God, Loving God, God of all, we stand here today exposed and vulnerable.

All: Forgive us when we fall short of your expectations.

Forgive us for our lack of love. Forgive us those times when through pride we fail to serve.

(adapted from liturgy by John Birch)

Assurance of God's Love

Love has its source in you, Creator God. It flows from you like an ocean, persistent against an unyielding world. And like the ocean which batters, erodes, and wears away even the toughest stone, your love persists in hardened hearts. It flows inside and works a miracle. Who would think that water was more powerful than granite, love mightier than the hardest heart? Thank you, Creator God for the power of your love.

(adapted from liturgy by John Birch)