



Tree planting liturgy

The Communion Forest is a vision for the Anglican Communion to join in protecting and restoring forests and other habitats throughout the world.

The Communion Forest is envisioned as one of the legacies of the Lambeth Conference – something lasting that makes tangible our shared commitment to the Anglican Fifth Mark of Mission: to strive to safeguard the integrity of creation and sustain and renew the life of the earth.

Full information about the Anglican Communion forest and how to take this forward in your setting is provided in a separate resource pack.

We invite you to join us in a moment of prayer and tree planting, as together, we make a commitment to grow the Anglican Communion forest around the world.

Our tree planting will happen on the main lawn.



Prayers for the launch of the Communion Forest

Prayer of Preparation

O Lord, open our lips.

ALL: And our mouth shall proclaim your praise.

Blessed are you, Lord God,
creator of heaven and earth.
Your Word calls all things into being,
and the light of dawn awakens us to life.
May your wisdom guide us this day
that we may cherish and care for your good creation,
so all may flourish together,
and offer to you the sacrifice of our lips,
praising you, Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

ALL: Blessed be God for ever.

We pause in silence to reflect on the beauty of God's creation around us.

Psalm 104

Verses of the psalm will be read in different languages.

- 1 Bless the Lord, O my soul. ♦
O Lord my God, how excellent is your greatness!
- 19 You appointed the moon to mark the seasons, ♦
and the sun knows the time for its setting.
- 20 You make darkness that it may be night, ♦
in which all the beasts of the forest creep forth.
- 21 The lions roar for their prey ♦
and seek their food from God.
- 22 The sun rises and they are gone ♦
to lay themselves down in their dens.
- 23 People go forth to their work ♦
and to their labour until the evening.
- 24 O Lord, how manifold are your works! ♦
In wisdom you have made them all;
the earth is full of your creatures.
- 25 There is the sea, spread far and wide, ♦
and there move creatures beyond number, both small and great.
- 26 There go the ships, and there is that Leviathan ♦
which you have made to play in the deep.
- 27 All of these look to you ♦
to give them their food in due season.
- 28 When you give it them, they gather it; ♦
you open your hand and they are filled with good things.

**ALL: Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit;
As it was in the beginning is now and shall be for ever. Amen.**



Prayers of Penitence

Jesus, our deliverer, we harm your good earth
and take your freedom from others.
Lord, have mercy.

ALL: Lord, have mercy.

Jesus, our hope, we threaten the integrity of
creation and deprive others of hope.
Christ, have mercy.

ALL: Christ, have mercy.

Jesus, God's shalom, we distort your peace in all
the earth.
Lord, have mercy.

ALL: Lord, have mercy.

In silence before God, we confess our sins.

May the Father of all mercies
cleanse us from our sins,
and restore us in his image
to the praise and glory of his name,
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

ALL: Amen.

Song

Thuma mina; thuma mina; thuma mina,
Somondla.

Send me, Jesus; send me, Jesus; send me,
Jesus; send me, Lord.

Reading

Revelation 22: 1-2

Then the angel showed me the river of the
water of life, bright as crystal, flowing from the
throne of God and of the Lamb through the
middle of the street of the city. On either side
of the river is the tree of life, with its twelve
kinds of fruit, producing its fruit each month;
and the leaves of the tree are for the healing
of the nations.

This is the word of the Lord.

ALL: Thanks be to God.

Planting of a tree

The Planting of the Tree is explained. Then the Archbishops with young people will plant the symbolic tree to launch the Communion Forest as a sign of commitment and hope. All are invited to add some soil to the planting of the tree after the prayers conclude.

The place in the soil is prepared

And the Lord God planted a garden. The Lord God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to till it and keep it.
Genesis 2.8,15

(Each scripture reading is repeated in another language)

Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good,
for his steadfast love endures for ever.

(Please say in your own language)

The tree is placed in the soil

For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven: a time to be born, and a time to die; a time to plant, and a time to pluck up what is planted.
Ecclesiastes 3.1-2

God spread out the earth on the waters,
for his steadfast love endures for ever.

Earthing-in with soil

Then God said, 'Let the earth put forth vegetation: plants yielding seed, and fruit trees of every kind on earth that bear fruit with the seed in it.' And it was so.
Genesis 1.11

O give thanks to the Lord of lords,
for his steadfast love endures for ever.

Watering

I will give you your rains in their season, and the land shall yield its produce, and the trees of the field shall yield their fruit.
Leviticus 26.4

Give thanks to him who formed all things,
for his steadfast love endures for ever.

Growing

And the leaves of the tree are for the healing of the nations.
Revelation 22.2

God alone does great wonders,
for his steadfast love endures for ever. Amen.

Collect

Almighty God,
you have created the heavens and the earth
and made us in your own image.
Give us grace to wonder at your gift,
to treasure the earth
and to work for its protection and renewal;
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,
who with you and the Holy Spirit reigns
supreme over all things,
now and for ever.
Amen.

The Lord's Prayer

Together, each in our own language, we pray:

**Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name;
thy kingdom come;
thy will be done;
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread,
and forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation;
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom,
the power and the glory,
for ever and ever. Amen.**

Commitment

Let us stand to affirm our commitment to care actively for God's creation and all humanity.

**Lord of life and giver of hope,
we pledge ourselves to care for your people
and world:
to strive to safeguard the integrity of creation
and sustain and renew the life of the earth.
May your wisdom guide us,
so that all creation may flourish
and sing your praise.**

May the commitment we have made this day
be matched by our faithful living.

Amen. Amen. Amen.

Blessing

May God who made heaven and earth bless us
and keep us
And give us grace to show forth in our lives the
loving care of our Creator;
and the blessing of God Almighty,
the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit,
be amongst us and remain with us now and
through all eternity.

Amen.

Tend the earth, care for God's good creation,
and bring forth the fruits of righteousness.

Go in the peace of Christ.

Thanks be to God.

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