

Worship: Care for God's Creation

RESPONSIVE CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: Bless the Lord, O my soul. O Lord my God, you are very great. You are clothed with honor and majesty, wrapped in light as with a garment.

People: O Lord, how manifold are your works! In wisdom you have made them all; the earth is full of your creatures.

Leader: These all look to you to give them their food in due season; when you give to them, they gather it up; when you open your hand, they are filled with good things.

All: may the glory of the Lord endure forever, may the Lord rejoice in his works!

RESPONSIVE READING FOLLOWING SERMON

Leader: Through our worship, by our reading of scripture, and in our desire to love God, we discover that we are the love God's world. Out of chaos God created a sustainable, beautiful place in which to live. The earth is God's gift of home.

People: Like us, the earth is God's good creation.

Leader: How we choose to live has an impact on God's world. The things we do always affect other people, the land, the seas, the air ... a multitude of creatures!

People: Like us, all of these are God's good creation.

Leader: When we really think about it, we don't own anything. We are given responsibility to care for God's world: To cultivate the land with gentleness, to enjoy the waters with restraint, to refresh the air, renew the forests, and to protect our brother and sister creatures.

People: God's good creation is all around us – it belongs to God.

Leader: We are here for only a time, but the earth abides forever. Let us live with gratitude and with a willingness to share, to care, to hop and to remember that there will be others who need this good earth when we are gone.

People: This is God's good creation.

PRAYER

Gracious God, you have called us to be responsible stewards of all you have created. We have gathered here to praise you for the wonder of your world. As we worship you, inspire us to be a new people: a people of peace, a people of compassion and responsibility toward the earth that you have entrusted to us, a people of wisdom, a people of love, your very own people. Amen.

HYMNS

The listed hymn numbers are from "Hymnal A Worship Book", the blue Church of the Brethren hymnal.

Praise to God, Immortal Praise	91
We Plow the Fields and Scatter	96
This is My Father's World	154
All Things Bright and Beautiful	156
In the Bulb There is a Flower	614
Morning has Broken	648

ANTHEMS

Haydn's *Creation* offers several choral pieces which could be excerpted for an anthem.

"The Earth Is Thine in Beauty, Lord" FA-5007

Unison voices

Text by: Carrie Hitt Hardcastle

Music by: David N. Johnson

Publisher: Harold Flammer, Inc., Delaware Water Gap, PA 18327

"We Need The Rain" BG2138

SATB

Words and Music by: Bryan Jeffery Leech

Arranged by: James R. Hubbard

Pub: Fred Bock Music Company

"The Heavens Are Telling" 488

SATB

Franz Joseph Haydn

Pub: Lorenz Publishing Company

501 East Third Street, Dayton, OH 45401

In the Church of the Brethren Hymnal Supplement:

"Touch the Earth Gently (or Lightly)"

PRAISE SONGS

"I Thank You God"

I thank you God, for this most amazing day!

I thank you God, God thanks a lot

For the leaping greenly spirit of trees

And the true blue dream of the sky!

For everything that is natural,

That is infinite,

That is yes, yes, yes yes yes!

"This is the Day which the Lord has Made"

This is the day, this is the day

Which the Lord has made, which the Lord has made.

We will rejoice, we will rejoice,

And be glad in it, and be glad in it!
This is the day which the Lord has made,
We will rejoice and be glad in it.
This is the day, this is the day,
Which the Lord has made.