

A Litany of Thanksgiving and Confession for Earth Day

Almighty and everlasting God, maker of all things, judge of all people: You created the cosmos, its unsearchable wonders, and this planet Earth, our island home. You have given the Earth's care into our hands, that we might be wise stewards of its bounty.

We give you humble thanks for the gift of Creation and confess our sin in failing to care for it.
We thank you and we confess to you, Lord.

You created the heavens and the perfect blend of elements in the air we breathe to sustain all life on Earth. Yet we have taken this clear, exquisite air, fresh with the fragrance of green and growing things, and have polluted it heedlessly with the waste products of our lives.

We give you humble thanks for the gift of the air that we breathe and confess our sin in polluting it.
We thank you and we confess to you, Lord.

You created the Earth: its fertile soil and its minerals, to nourish all your countless forms of life, to give growth to plants and forests, to bring forth food to sustain your creatures. Yet we have abused the soil and the Earth through reckless extraction and greed.

We give you humble thanks for the gift of the Earth and confess our sin in misusing it.
We thank you and we confess to you, Lord.

You created the waters: the sparkling springs, ponds, streams, lakes, rivers and the vast seas to supply the most essential of life's needs. Your waters not only sustain us, but also fill us with wonder, joy and awe. Yet in our lives of conspicuous consumption we have contaminated them shamelessly with waste and refuse.

We give you humble thanks for the gift of water and we confess our sin in polluting it.
We thank you and we confess to you, Lord.

You created all the green things of Earth: mosses and ferns, flowers and shrubs, towering trees and woodlands, interlacing them in a wondrous web of existence. They nourish and heal us, and they astonish us with their beauty, diversity, and splendor. Yet we misuse and destroy them through monoculture, rapacious logging, and depletion of the water and soil that sustain plant life.

We give you humble thanks for the gift of plants and trees, and we confess our sin in misusing them.
We thank you and we confess to you, Lord.

You made all the creatures of the Earth: from the smallest microorganisms to elephants and blue whales—and all the creatures in between! They also nourish, heal, and bring us delight and wonder. Yet these, too, we abuse and destroy for profit of exploitation or expropriation of their habitats or the thrill of the hunt.



We give you humble thanks for the gift of all your creatures great and small. We confess our sin in abusing them.

We thank you and we confess to you, Lord.

Loving God, you created humankind in all its rich diversity that, living in peace with one another, we might learn and grow in understanding and love and delight. Yet though we know that we are all your children, we still live in fear. We treat others with suspicion and disdain and indifference, walled away in the smallness of the familiar, unwilling to open our minds and hearts to those different from us.

We give you humble thanks for the gift of all your people and we confess our sin in fearing and distrusting them.

We thank you and we confess to you, Lord.

Almighty God, in giving us dominion over things on Earth, you made us fellow workers in your creation: Give us wisdom and reverence so to use the resources of creation that no one may suffer from our abuse of them, and that generations yet to come may continue to praise you for your bounty, through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

The Book of Common Prayer, p. 827

About Earth Day

Begun in 1970, Earth Day is worldwide day of education and events supporting creation care and a broader understanding of our island home. The Episcopal Church invites you to participate in Earth Day, and to cultivate the care of creation in your heart, home, and community. We hope these prayers, written by our friend Betsy Rogers, will help you and your congregation pray together and ponder the ways we live, move, and have our being in the midst of God's good creation. You can use this litany any time of year, but it is especially designed for using with your Earth Day observances. Whether you choose to use this as a bulletin insert, an email attachment, or in some other creative way, we are grateful to be praying alongside you.

About Forward Movement

Forward Movement is committed to inspiring disciples and empowering evangelists. Our ministry is lived out by creating resources such as books, small group studies, app, conferences, and pdfs just like this one.

Our daily devotional, *Forward Day by Day*, is also available in Spanish (*Adelante Día a Día*) and Braille, online, as a podcast, and as an app for smartphones and tablets. It is mailed to more than fifty countries, and we donate nearly 30,000 copies each quarter to prisons, hospitals, and nursing homes.

We actively seek partners across the church and look for ways to provide resources that inspire and challenge. A ministry of the Episcopal Church for eighty-four years, Forward Movement is a nonprofit organization funded by sales of resources and by gifts from generous donors.

To learn more about Forward Movement and our resources, please visit www.ForwardMovement.org. We are delighted to be doing this work and invite your prayers, participation, and support.

