



ECO CHURCH  
RESOURCES

WORSHIP  
& TEACHING

**ECO**  **CHURCH**  
AN A ROCHA UK PROJECT

Liturgies

[www.ecochurch.arocha.org.uk](http://www.ecochurch.arocha.org.uk)

# Liturgies

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think



As part of their journey into environmental issues, Rugby Baptist Church created what became an electronic celebration of Christmas.

They received their second Eco Church Award in October 2014, as reported by A Rocha UK's Root & Branch magazine (spring/summer 2015). In 2013 members were encouraged by their own Eco Church Group to reduce waste by creating electronic Christmas cards instead of sending each other physical cards.

These electronic cards would then be projected as an on-screen PowerPoint slideshow in church during Advent. 'In all honesty, we felt slightly apprehensive about how the idea would be received,' said Eco Church Group member Martin Tiller.

However, concerns about negative headlines along the lines of 'Christmas Cards Banned By Church Eco-Scrooges' were soon allayed, as this electronic liturgy took shape. 'People loved the idea,' said Martin, 'and more than 40 families and individuals participated.'

Church members' creativity was evident in the various designs – many of which could not be found in the shops! Thanks to popular demand, the initiative was repeated in 2014. In total, more than 2,000 cards and envelopes have been saved as a result of this simple electronic worship aid.

do



## It's as easy as falling off a log – or at least sitting on one

It's a small but significant step towards bringing your congregation closer to creation. Put a log in the church.

'Place a log down for people to sit on,' said Andy Raine, who edits the popular *Celtic Daily Prayer*, 'or gather a collection of stones – something tactile – that reflects the outdoors indoors. Our senses immediately begin to relax.'

A founder of the Northumbria Community, Andy compiles *Celtic Daily Prayer*, the latest edition of which came out in September 2015. With morning, midday and evening prayer, this daily office is at the core of the Community. But its influence extends way beyond north-east England.

This collection of liturgies, prayers and meditations inspired by Celtic Christianity brings an ancient tradition to life for seekers today.

Some have said it has been life-changing for them. Others have said it is '*the book*'.

Rediscovering Celtic Christianity has helped many to appreciate what Andy described as 'the sense that creation is a demonstration of the nature of God'. Andy, who lives and works on Lindisfarne, explained: 'The Celtic mindset is very similar to the North American Indians – that we need to treat the natural earth as sacred because it is one of the expressions of who God is.'

Andy said if you ask people about their favourite hymns, they will often say, *The Lord's My Shepherd* – which refers to 'pastures green' and spreading a table in the wilderness, like a picnic. Another hymn which springs to mind for other people is *How Great Thou Art* – 'about being on top of a mountain and feeling close to God'. Andy added, 'We're meant to be integrated in the world which we inhabit.'



### ANDY RAINE

[www.northumbriacommunity.com/2012/11/01/andy-raine](http://www.northumbriacommunity.com/2012/11/01/andy-raine)

BROKEN LINK REPORTED



A liturgy has been written specially for Eco Church by Wendy Young of Christian Aid. Please use it freely for your worship service.

## Order of Worship

Words and sources for the song suggestions are included in full at the end of the order.

## Call to worship

In the beginning was God

By God all things were created, are sustained and find their purpose

All things hold together in the vibrant harmony of God.

*OUR GOD HAS COME DOWN TO EARTH*

Because he so loved the world

God became flesh and blood and moved into our neighbourhood

*OUR GOD HAS COME DOWN TO EARTH*

God did not come to condemn the world

but to free it to live in abundance

*OUR GOD HAS COME DOWN TO EARTH*

The trees of the field clap their hands

The faithful stones shout out their praise

the elements of wind and sea obey their God

*SO WE COME TO PRAISE OUR MAKER*

*TO BE FAITHFUL AND OBEY*

*A GOD WHO HAS COME DOWN TO EARTH*

*AND IS HERE AMONG US*

## Song

*Come all you people*

Alexander Gondo. Arr. J L Bell © WGRG 1995

## Reading

Colossians 1:15–20

## Hymn

*Oh The Life Of The World*

K. Galloway/I. Galloway. Common Ground © Panel on Worship

## Confession

Oh the life of the world is a joy and a treasure

Yet the earth dries up, its crops wither

Earth and sky decay

And the world is polluted by its people (Isaiah 24:4–6)

*WE CONFESS THAT WE, CHILDREN OF EARTH,*

*HAVE BROKEN FAITH WITH GOD.*

*FORGIVE US GOD,*

*FOR OUR FAILURE TO CARE FOR YOUR CREATION*



## Song

*Senzeni na? (What have we done?)*

South African melody © WGRG

Oh the life of the world is a fountain of goodness  
Yet mountains erode and cliffs crumble  
When water wears down rocks and floods wash away the soil  
People lose their hope for life (Job 14:18-19)  
*WE CONFESS THAT WE, CHILDREN OF EARTH,  
HAVE NOT PROTECTED THE SOIL  
FORGIVE US GOD,  
FOR OUR FAILURE TO CARE FOR YOUR CREATION*

*SENZENI NA*

Oh the life of the world is the source of our healing  
But seeds die in dry earth  
Pasture becomes desert  
And animals cry out because streams have dried up (Joel 1:17-20)  
*WE CONFESS THAT WE, CHILDREN OF EARTH  
HAVE NEGLECTED THE FERTILE HEALING OF THE PLANET  
FORGIVE US GOD,  
FOR OUR FAILURE TO CARE FOR YOUR CREATION*

*SENZENI NA*

Give thanks for the life and give love to the maker  
The Lord asks us to choose between life and death  
Heaven and earth witness the choice we make  
Choose life that you and your children may live  
*WE WILL LOVE GOD, LISTEN TO GOD,  
OBEY GOD AND BE FAITHFUL  
SO MAY ALL CREATION KNOW THE FULLNESS OF LIVING.* (Deut. 30:19-20)

## Reading

Psalm 19

## Hymn

*Touch the Earth Lightly*

Shirley Murray/Colin Gibson © Hope Publishing via Copy Care Ltd

do more



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## Story/sermon/reflection

In January 2015, terrible floods struck Malawi. But in Chikwawa, one of the worst affected districts, people's crops, homes and even lives were saved because of the work of Christian Aid partner, Eagles Relief and Development. (Eagles was set up by Living Waters Church in 2002.)

In Nedi village, a flood drain dug by hand by the community in 2005 prevented their houses being washed away in the floods ten years later. In 2003, Chikalumphu villagers planted a wood lot, deepened the river and grew elephant grass to keep the soil in place. Thanks to their efforts, their fields were protected.

Eagles trains communities how to plant and care for trees, creating nurseries to grow the seedlings before establishing small woods in areas prone to flooding. The trees help to contain floods and protect houses, fields, livestock and people from literally being washed away. Communities also use them as live fencing to protect their crops from livestock. Julia Maida, a Malawian farmer, shares inspiring words for us all:

'We must hold hands to ensure we repair the environment that's been destroyed. We need to plant trees to heal our environment.'

The effects of climate change may be affecting those who have done the least to cause the problem, but together we can all make a difference.

You can view a film providing more detail about climate change resilience work in Malawi here [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jYRpMwfGV\\_I](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jYRpMwfGV_I)

## Action or Response

We are invited to come to one of the stations and plant a seed, a seed which is symbolic of our commitment to live lives that are down to earth, in solidarity with God and God's creation.

## Song

*Mayenziwe 'ntando yakho*

*(Your will be done on earth O Lord)*

South African melody. Arr. J.L. Bell. © Public Domain

## Intercession

Loving God

You came down to earth

You heard its groaning under the weight of our sin

You felt her longing for release from bondage to decay

*MAY THE SEEDS OF OUR COMMITMENT GROW STRONG,*

*MAY YOUR WILL BE DONE ON EARTH AS IT IS IN HEAVEN*





## Intercession

Save the earth in her time of trial  
 And deliver us from our evil  
 Our plundering of earth's treasure,  
 Our filling its waters with waste  
 Our choking the air with pollutants,  
 Our playing with fire  
 and dicing the future we have borrowed from our children  
*MAY THE SEEDS OF OUR COMMITMENT GROW STRONG,  
 MAY YOUR WILL BE DONE ON EARTH AS IT IS IN HEAVEN*

The Kingdom, the Power and the Glory of the Earth are yours  
 Waiting for liberation, the earth and ourselves grow tired  
 But You have promised Your Spirit to sustain us  
 So we may sustain one another  
*MAY THE SEEDS OF OUR COMMITMENT GROW STRONG,  
 MAY YOUR WILL BE DONE ON EARTH AS IT IS IN HEAVEN*

## Song

Mayenziwe 'ntando yakho

## Closing Responses

This we know: the earth does not belong to us.,  
*WE BELONG TO THE EARTH,  
 OUR LIVES SHOULD BE DOWN TO EARTH.*

This we know:, all things are connected.,  
*LIKE THE BLOOD THAT UNITES ONE FAMILY,  
 OUR BLOOD RUNS DOWN TO EARTH.*

This we know:, we did not weave the web of life.,  
*WE ARE A STRAND WITHIN IT,  
 WOVEN DOWN TO EARTH.*

Whatever we do to this web  
*WE DO IT TO OURSELVES.*

Let us give thanks for the gift of creation  
 And for our God, who came down to earth  
*LET US GIVE THANKS  
 THAT ALL THINGS HOLD TOGETHER IN CHRIST,  
 CHRIST WHO CAME DOWN TO EARTH.*

Iona Abbey Worship Book © 2001 Wild Goose Publications 2001 (amended)  
 www.ionabooks.com

## Blessing

*The peace of the earth be with you*

Guatemalan text. Trans. C Carson. Arr. J L Bell © WGRG



## Songs &amp; Hymns

## Come All You People

Come all you people  
Come, praise your Maker  
Come all you people  
Come, praise your Maker  
Come all you people  
Come, praise your Maker  
Come now, and worship the Lord.

Alexander Gondo. Arr. J L Bell © WGRG 1995  
WGRG/Wild Goose Resource Group is a semi-autonomous  
project of the Iona Community, a charity registered in Scotland,  
No SC003794.

## COME ALL YOU PEOPLE

[www.hymnary.org/text/come\\_all\\_you\\_people\\_come\\_and\\_praise](http://www.hymnary.org/text/come_all_you_people_come_and_praise)

## Oh The Life Of The World

Oh the life of the world is a joy and treasure  
Unfolding in beauty the green-growing tree,  
The changing of seasons in mountain and valley,  
The stars and the bright restless sea.

Oh the life of the world is a fountain of goodness  
Overflowing in labour and passion and pain,  
In the sound of the city and the silence of wisdom,  
In the birth of a child once again.

Oh the life of the world is the source of our healing.  
It rises in laughter and wells up in song;  
It springs from the care of the poor and the broken  
And refreshes where justice is strong.

So give thanks for the life and give love to the maker,  
And rejoice in the gift of the bright risen Son,  
And walk in the peace and the power of the Spirit  
Till the days of our living are done.

K.Galloway/I.Galloway. Common Ground © Panel on Worship  
Source: Common Ground 97 (published by Saint Andrew Press)

## Touch The Earth Lightly

Touch the earth lightly, use the earth gently,  
nourish the life of the world in our care:  
gift of great wonder, ours to surrender,  
trust for the children tomorrow will bear.

*(Could be sung as a solo)*

We who endanger,  
Who create hunger,  
Agents of death for all creatures that live,  
We who would foster,  
Clouds of disaster,  
God of our planet, forestall and forgive!

Let there be greening, birth from the burning,  
Water that blesses and air that is sweet,  
Health in God's garden, hope in God's children,  
Regeneration that peace will complete.

God of all living, God of all loving,  
God of the seedling, the snow and sun,  
teach us, deflect us, Christ re-connect us  
using us gently and making us one.

Shirley Murray/Colin Gibson © Hope Publishing via Copy Care Ltd  
(Use requires a reprint licence, which many churches may have  
already)

## TOUCH THE EARTH LIGHTLY

[www.hymnary.org/text/touch\\_the\\_earth\\_lightly](http://www.hymnary.org/text/touch_the_earth_lightly)





## Senzeni na

(What have we done?)

### SENZENI-NA

[songily.com/mp3/download/1/senzeni-na.html](https://songily.com/mp3/download/1/senzeni-na.html)

South African melody © WGRG

WGRG/Wild Goose Resource Group is a semi-autonomous project of the Iona Community, a charity registered in Scotland, No SC003794. [www.wildgoose.scot](http://www.wildgoose.scot)

## Mayenziwe 'ntando yakho

(Your will be done on earth O Lord)

### MAYENZIWE 'NTANDO YAKHO

[www.worshipworkshop.org.uk/songs-and-hymns/hymns/mayenziwe-ntando-yakho](http://www.worshipworkshop.org.uk/songs-and-hymns/hymns/mayenziwe-ntando-yakho)

South African melody. Arr. J L Bell. © Public domain

## The Peace Of The Earth Be With You

The peace of the earth be with you,  
the peace of the heavens too;  
The peace of the rivers be with you,  
the peace of the oceans too.

Deep peace, falling over you  
God's peace, growing in you.

### THE PEACE OF THE EARTH BE WITH YOU

[www.hymnary.org/text/the\\_peace\\_of\\_the\\_earth\\_be\\_with\\_you](http://www.hymnary.org/text/the_peace_of_the_earth_be_with_you)

Guatemalan text. Trans. C Carson. Arr. J L Bell © WGRG

WGRG/Wild Goose Resource Group is a semi-autonomous project of the Iona Community, a charity registered in Scotland, No SC003794. [www.wildgoose.scot](http://www.wildgoose.scot)



## Additional resources

A helpful list of alternative hymns can be found here:

### ECOCHURCH SOUTHWEST

[ecochurchsouthwest.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/Resources\\_Hymns.pdf](http://ecochurchsouthwest.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/Resources_Hymns.pdf)

### CLIMATE JUSTICE

[www.christianaid.org.uk/ActNow/climate-justice/resources.aspx?Page=2](http://www.christianaid.org.uk/ActNow/climate-justice/resources.aspx?Page=2)

### LITURGY FOR AN EARTHKEEPER DAY SERVICE BY SAFCEI

[safcei.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/02/LiturgyEarthkeeperDay.pdf](http://safcei.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/02/LiturgyEarthkeeperDay.pdf)

### TIME FOR CREATION MATERIAL FROM WORLD COUNCIL OF CHURCHES

[www.oikoumene.org/en/what-we-do/climate-change/time-for-creation](http://www.oikoumene.org/en/what-we-do/climate-change/time-for-creation)

### SERVICE MATERIAL FOR CREATION TIME BY ECO-CONGREGATION SCOTLAND

[www.ecocongregationscotland.org/materials/creation-time](http://www.ecocongregationscotland.org/materials/creation-time)

A STEWARDS OF CREATION ORDER OF SERVICE HAS BEEN COMPILED BY AN ASSOCIATE OF THE JOHN RAY INITIATIVE, DR ADRIAN THOMPSON. USE IT IN ITS ENTIRETY FOR A TIME OF DEEP REFLECTION, OR ADAPT ELEMENTS OF IT FOR A SHORTER EVENT

[jri.org.uk/news/service\\_lancaster.pdf](http://jri.org.uk/news/service_lancaster.pdf)

ALL AROUND EUROPE, CHRISTIANS ARE WRITING LITURGICAL MATERIAL WITH A CREATION THEME. THIS WEBLINK WILL TAKE YOU TO A LIST OF SOME OF THIS MATERIAL FOR USE IN CREATION TIME AND THROUGHOUT THE YEAR

[www.ecen.org/content/liturgy](http://www.ecen.org/content/liturgy)

DON'T STOP AT THE LIGHTS IS A PRACTICAL ENVIRONMENTAL GUIDE STRUCTURED AROUND THE CHURCH'S LITURGICAL YEAR TO HELP PEOPLE CREATE A GREENER CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY

[www.chpublishing.co.uk/books/9780715141380/dont-stop-at-the-lights](http://www.chpublishing.co.uk/books/9780715141380/dont-stop-at-the-lights)

LYNDA TAYLOR PRODUCED THIS 'CREATION CARE CREED' FOR A ROCHA INTERNATIONAL. THE TEXT PLACES THE ENVIRONMENT INTO THE CONTEXT OF OUR CORPORATE DEVOTION AND OUR INDIVIDUAL SPIRITUALITY

[atyourservice.arocha.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/06/Creation-Care-Creed.pdf](http://atyourservice.arocha.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/06/Creation-Care-Creed.pdf)

A HOLY COMMUNION 'LITURGY ON FOOD' HAS BEEN PREPARED BY REVD DAVE BOOKLESS OF A ROCHA INTERNATIONAL.

[atyourservice.arocha.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/06/Holy-Communion-Liturgy-on-Food.pdf](http://atyourservice.arocha.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/06/Holy-Communion-Liturgy-on-Food.pdf)

VARIOUS LITURGIES ARE AVAILABLE FROM OPERATION NOAH, ON CELEBRATING CREATION WITH HOPE, JOY AND RESPONSIBILITY

[operationnoah.org/resource-types/liturgy](http://operationnoah.org/resource-types/liturgy)

QUIET CREATION-CENTRED REFLECTIONS AND PRAYERS ARE OFFERED BY FORMER LINDISFARNE VICAR DAVID ADAM, ON THE CD THE EYE OF THE HEART

[www.kevinmayhew.com/eye-of-the-heart-cd.html](http://www.kevinmayhew.com/eye-of-the-heart-cd.html)

LITURGIES CAN BE FOUND ON THE NORTHUMBRIA COMMUNITY'S WEBSITE.

[www.northumbriacommunity.org/offices/how-to-use-daily-office](http://www.northumbriacommunity.org/offices/how-to-use-daily-office)

LINDISFARNE SCRIPTORIUM OFFER MEDITATIVE ARTWORK WHICH CAN BE USED AS A VISUAL LITURGY, DRAWING THE WORSHIPPER INTO A TIME OF QUIET REFLECTION

[www.lindisfarne-scriptorium.co.uk](http://www.lindisfarne-scriptorium.co.uk)