

Supporting Information to Resolution 2009-2

Submitted by The Rev. Joseph Parrish

RESOLUTION 2009-2:

Subject: Liturgical Creation Cycle of the Pentecost Season

Be it Resolved, That the 225th Annual Convention of the Diocese of New Jersey commend to the diocese and congregations the optional celebration of a liturgical Creation Cycle of the Pentecost Season from St. Francis' Day to Advent, for the purpose of affirming the sacredness of God's creation, of spreading hope about God's reconciling work in creation, and of an understanding of environmental stewardship and ecological justice; and be it

Further Resolved, That the Liturgical Advisory Committee of the Diocese be encouraged to study materials on the Creation Season and make them available to congregations; and be it

Further Resolved, That the Diocesan Convention propose the following resolution to the General Convention of the Episcopal Church meeting in 2009:

TITLE: Creation Cycle of the Pentecost Season

Resolved, the House of _____ concurring, That the 76th General Convention establish a liturgical Creation Cycle of the Pentecost Season from St. Francis' Day to Advent, for the purpose of affirming the sacredness of God's creation, of spreading hope about God's reconciling work in creation and an understanding of environmental stewardship and ecological justice; and be it further

Resolved, That the General Convention direct the Standing Commission on Liturgy and Music to develop prayers and other liturgical materials celebrating a Pentecost Season Creation Cycle for inclusion in the next edition of the Book of Occasional Services and that it report its work to the 77th General Convention.

EXPLANATION:

God the Creator has made the universe with all its marvelous order, its atoms, planets, galaxies, and the Earth with its infinite complexity of living creatures. Our Gracious God has filled all living creatures with plenteousness and generativity and has blessed human beings with the task of the stewardship of the creation upon Earth.

Traditional Anglicanism has observed the beauty of the Creation over the centuries by celebrating the octave of Rogation, and has commended this practice in its foundational documents and continuing liturgical traditions. Since 1991, many Episcopal Churches in the United States have celebrated a "Creation Cycle of the Pentecost Season" to honor God the Creator with worship, music and praise for these gifts of life. This practice has spread to churches and cathedrals in the Episcopal Church, and also to Australia where it has become a national religious observance.

In June of 2008, the Archbishop of Canterbury, Rowan Williams, joined ecumenical leaders in England in calling for the celebrating of a liturgical period annually in all churches of the United Kingdom to "be dedicated to prayer for the protection of Creation and the promotion of sustainable lifestyles that reverse our contribution to climate change."

In affirming the Creation Cycle of the Pentecost Season, the Episcopal Church would be taking leadership in the Anglican Communion in the promotion of this important liturgical innovation.

SUBMITTED BY: The Rev'd Dr. Franklin Vilas, Interim Rector, St. Mark's, Basking Ridge; the Rev'd Joan M.P. Anders, Rector, Christ Church, Toms River, individually and, as Chair, on behalf of the Diocese of New Jersey Deputation to General Convention; the Rev'd Sheelagh Clarke, Assistant, St. Paul's Church, Westfield; the Rev'd Margaret Hodgkins, Rector, St. Andrew's Church, New Providence; the Rev'd Jeffrey Kirk, Rector, Church of the Atonement, Laurel Springs; the Rev'd Lisa Mitchell, Rector, Christ Church, Shrewsbury; the Rev'd C. John Thompson-Quartey, Rector, St. Mary's-by-the-Sea, Point Pleasant Beach; the Rev'd Richard C. Wrede, Rector, Christ Church, Riverton; and the Rev'd Joseph R. Parrish, Jr. on behalf of the Environmental Commission of the Diocese of New Jersey

Statement in Support of Resolution 2009-2 by Proposers:

The Explanation appended to the proposed General Convention resolution above is our Statement in Support for the adoption of this Creation Cycle not only by The Episcopal Church but by this Diocese and its congregations as well.

The proposed General Convention resolution has already been submitted to the General Convention office by individual Deputy Joan M.P. Anders with the endorsement of Deputies Joan Fleming and Noreen Duncan and will be considered as Resolution D001. General Convention rules allow submissions by individual Deputies, by Bishops, by Dioceses, or by Provinces. If approved by this 225th Diocesan Convention it will be resubmitted on behalf of the Diocese.

A Creation Season Service of Holy Eucharist
Using Supplemental Liturgical Materials prepared by the Standing Liturgical Commission
of the Episcopal Diocese of Minnesota and used by permission of
the Rt. Rev. James L. Jelinek, Bishop of Minnesota

Musical Prelude

Entrance Music: *(as announced)*

Possible Hymns

Opening Acclamation:

Celebrant: Blessed are you, holy and living One

People: You come to your people and set them free

Song of Praise: *(as announced)*

Possible Hymns

Salutation:

Celebrant: God be with you

People: And Also with you

Celebrant: Let us pray

Collect of the Day:

All:

God of unchangeable power, when you fashioned the world the morning stars sang together and the host of heaven shouted for joy; open our eyes to the wonders of creation and teach us to use all things for good, to the honor of your glorious name; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

(Source: A New Zealand Prayer Book, p. 569)

Reading of Lessons:

After each lesson:

Reader: Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Churches

People: *Thanks be to God*

Gradual Music: *(as announced)*

Possible Hymns

Gospel Announcement:

The Holy Gospel of our Savior Jesus Christ according to _____

Homily

The Nicene Creed:

We believe in one God,

the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth,
of all this is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,

the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,

God from God, Light from Light,

true God from true God,

begotten, not made,

of one Being with the Father;

through him all things were made.

For us and for our salvation

he came down from heaven,

was incarnate from the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary and became truly human.

For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;

he suffered death and was buried.

On the third day he rose again

in accordance with the Scriptures;

he ascended into heaven

and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,

and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the holy spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,

who proceeds from the Father (and the Son),

who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,

who has spoken through the prophets.

We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.

We acknowledge one Baptism for the forgiveness of sins.

We look for the resurrection of the dead,

and the life of the world to come. Amen

Prayers of the People:

God of Creation and Blessing, we offer prayers from our hearts, minds, and souls. We will affirm our bidding together by saying, Gracious God we offer prayers

We pray for all of Creation on this planet, Earth, that we inhabit as it moves through to Summer Solstice. Help us care for and repair it where damaged by our desires and mistakes

(period of silence)

Gracious God we offer prayers

We pray for our particular nation, that it may serve as a just and merciful partner in relationship to others.

(period of silence)

Gracious God we offer prayers

We pray for all in the church that we may be wise and careful stewards of our stories and traditions, sharing our abundance and joy.

(period of silence)

Gracious God we offer prayers

We pray for (City, Town, Community), for our neighbors and friends. We pray that (this church) may find its way to better serve the community here.

We pray in thanks and concerns for ...

We pray especially for to join us

We pray in thanks and concern for

... fathers and fathering

... mothers and mothering

(period of silence)

Gracious God we offer prayers

We pray for those ho have special needs

for healing ...

for travel ...

For guidance ...

Who mourn or suffer sadness ...

(period of silence)

Gracious God we offer prayers

We pray for those who have died, may we remain mindful of their gifts to us and able to sort through the difficulties we may have had with them

Especially today we remember

(period of silence)

Gracious God we offer prayers

Celebrant: (adds concluding Collect)

Confession of Sin:

Celebrant: Let us confess our sins to God

Silence is kept

All:

God of all mercy,

we confess that we have sinned against you,
opposing your will in our lives.

We have denied your goodness in each other,
in ourselves, and in the world you have created.

We repent of the evil that enslaves us,
and the evil we have done,

and the evil done on our behalf.

Forgive, restore, and strengthen us
through our Savior Jesus Christ,

that we may abide in your love

and serve only your will. Amen

Absolution

Celebrant: Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through the grace of Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life. *Amen*

The Peace

Celebrant: The peace of Christ be always with you

People: And also with you

Offertory Music (*as announced*)

Possible Hymns

The Great Thanksgiving

Celebrant: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you

Celebrant: Lift up your hearts.

People: We lift them to the Lord.

Celebrant: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People It is right to give our thanks and praise

Celebrant:

We praise you and we bless you, holy and gracious God, source of life abundant.

From before time you made ready the creation.

Your Spirit moved over the deep
and brought all things into being:

sun, moon, and stars;

earth, winds, and waters;

and every living thing.

You made us in your image,

and taught us to walk in your ways.

But we rebelled against you, and wandered far away;

and yet, as a mother cares for her children,
you would not forget us.

Time and again you called us

to live in the fullness of your love.

And so this day we join with Saints and Angels
in the chorus of praise that rings through eternity,
lifting our voices to magnify you as we sing (say)

Holy, Holy, Holy Lord, God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.

Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest.

The Celebrant continues:

Glory and honor and praise to you, holy and living God.

To deliver us from the power of sin and death

and to reveal the riches of your grace,

you looked with favor upon Mary, your willing servant,

that she might conceive and bear a son,

Jesus the holy child of God.
Living among us, Jesus loved us.
He broke bread with outcasts and sinners,
healed the sick, and proclaimed good news to the poor.
He yearned to draw all the world to himself
yet we were heedless of his call to walk in love.
Then the time came for him to complete upon the cross
the sacrifice of his life,
and to be glorified by you.

On the night before he died for us,
Jesus was at table with his friend.
He took bread, gave thanks to you,
broke it, and gave it to them, and said:
"Take, eat:
This is my Body, which is given for you.
Do this for the remembrance of me."

As supper was ending, Jesus took the cup of wine.
Again he gave thanks to you,
gave it to them, and said:
"Drink this, all of you:
This is my Blood of the new Covenant,
which is poured out for you and for all
for the forgiveness of sins.
Whenever you drink it,
do this for the remembrance of me."

Now gathered at your table, O God of all creation,
and remembering Christ crucified and risen,
who was and is and is to come,
we offer to you our gifts of bread and wine,
and ourselves, a living sacrifice.

Pour out your Spirit upon these gifts
that they may be the Body and blood of Christ.
Breathe your Spirit over the whole earth
and make us your new creation,
the Body of Christ given for the world you have made.

In the fullness of time bring us,
with (---- and) all your saints,
from every tribe and language and people and nation,
to feast at the banquet prepared
from the foundation of the world.

Through Christ and with Christ and in Christ,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
to you be honor, glory, and praise,
for ever and ever. *Amen.*

All:
Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your Name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.

*Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those
who sin against us.
Save us from the time of trial,
and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours,
now and for ever. Amen*

Silence is kept as the bread is broken.

Fraction Anthem:

We break this bread to share in the Body of Christ
We who are many are one body,
for we all share in the one bread
(Suggested melody: Centonized Mode 7 Antiphon melody by Bruce E. Ford, 1992)

Communion Music: *(as announced)*

Possible Hymns

Post Communion Prayer:

*All:
Loving God, we you thanks
for restoring us in your image
and nourishing us with spiritual food
in the Sacrament of Christ's Body and Blood.,
Now send us forth
a people forgiven, healed, renewed;
that we may proclaim your love to the world
and continue in the risen life of Christ our Savior
Amen.*

Blessing

Concluding Music: *(as announced)*

Possible Hymns

Musical Postlude

Service Notes:

The Hymns and readings in the original series were arranged around four Creation themes from Genesis (Water, Light, Plants, Birds & Animals). For a listing of hymns by these topical areas, [click here](#).
The Music used came from

- *The Hymnal 1982* according to the use of The Episcopal Church, Church Hymnal Corporation, New York, NY, 1982
- *Wonder, Love, and Praise: a Supplement to The Hymnal 1982*, Church Publishing, Inc., New York, NY, 1997

For a complete list of music, check our [Creation and Environmental Music Page](#)

This service was first used in June 1999 as part of a "Pentecost Creation Season" at St. Edward the Confessor Episcopal Church, Duluth, MN. For additional information on the service, contact St. Edward's or the [Rev](#)

Margaret W. Thomas, their priest. You may use this service at your church, however, if you are not a congregation of the Diocese of Minnesota, you may need to permission from within your diocese, synod, or region before using. For 2000, St. Edward the confessor Episcopal Church did a creation service based around the Native American themes of the Four Directions.

PROGRAM FOR EUCHARIST, CHRIST IN NATURE RETREAT

June 30th, 2007; Sponsored by the Diocesan Committee for the Environment, Episcopal Diocese of Olympia
Saint Augustine in the Woods, Freeland, Whidbey Island.

Presider: Rev. Nigel Taber-Hamilton

Opening Acclamation:

Presider Blessed be our Creator God who makes all creation new

People And blessed be that creation of light and life and love

Collect:

God of all Creation, as Jesus suffered on the Cross, so your creation suffers. Guide our hearts, our minds and our hands so that we may know your will and with your help bring renewal and healing to our earth. In Christ's name we pray.

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Prayers for Creation: *Please read together*

Creator God:

we know you in the stillness of every new dawn,
in the crispness of breezes cooled by night,
in the first beams of the rising sun shining through.

Bless us now and always with your clarity. We welcome you.

Creator God:

we know you in the fury of the noonday sun,
in the wall of heat pushing from an open oven,
in the quiet light of candles upon our altar.

Bless us now and always with your intensity. We welcome you.

Creator God:

we know you in the cooling power of rain,
in the tinkle of ice in a glass of lemonade,
in the refreshing plunge of bare feet into a cold river.

Bless us now and always with your calm. We welcome you.

Creator God:

we know you in the shadows cast by the setting sun,
in the joyous taste of ripe summer fruits,
in the comfort of a cool, grassy seat under a night sky.

Bless us now and always with your nurturing. We welcome you.

Creator God:

Cleanse us with your burning sun and cooling water
As the summer grows long, and we turn our faces once again towards fall,
Give us the strength to live each day in harmony with your creation.

We honor you. Blessed be.

Offertory:

Eucharist

Eucharistic Prayer 3

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

All thanks and praise are yours at all times and in all places, our true and loving God; through Jesus Christ, your eternal Word, the Wisdom from on high by whom you created all things. You laid the foundations of the world and enclosed the sea when it burst out from the womb; you brought forth all creatures of the earth and gave breath to humankind. Wondrous are you, Holy One of Blessing, all you create is a sign of hope for our journey; and so as the morning stars sing your praises we join the heavenly beings and all creation as we shout for joy:

Holy, Holy, Holy

Glory and honor are yours, Creator of all, your Word has never been silent; you call a

people to yourself, as a light to the nations, you delivered them from bondage and led them to a land of promise. Of your grace, you have Jesus to be human, to share our life, to proclaim the coming of your reign and give himself for us, a fragrant offering.

Through Jesus Christ our Redeemer, you have freed us from sin, brought us into your life, reconciled us to you, and restored us to the glory you intend for us.

We thank you that on the night before he died for us Jesus took bread, and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, gave to his friends and said: "Take, eat, this is my Body, broken for you. Do this for the remembrance of me." After supper Jesus took the cup of wine, said the blessing, gave it to his friends and said: "Drink this, all of you: this cup is the New Covenant in my Blood, poured out for you and for all for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me."

And so remembering all that was done for us: the cross, the tomb, the resurrection and ascension, longing for Christ's coming in glory, and presenting to you these gifts your earth has formed and human hands have made, we acclaim you, O Christ:

Dying, you destroyed our death.

Rising, you restored our life.

Christ Jesus, come in glory!

Send your Holy Spirit upon us and upon these gifts of bread and wine that they may be to us the Body and Blood of your Christ. Grant that we, burning with your Spirit's power, may be a people of hope, justice, and love. Giver of Life, draw us together in the Body of Christ, and in the fullness of time gather us with the ever blessed Virgin Mary, Blessed Paul the patron of this Household, and all your people into the joy of our true eternal home.

Through Christ and with Christ and in Christ, by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, we worship you our God and Creator in voices of unending praise. Blessed are you now and for ever. *AMEN.*

The Lord's Prayer:

Eternal Spirit,

Earth-maker, Pain-bearer, Life-giver,

Source of all that is and that shall be,

Father and Mother of us all,

Loving God, in whom is heaven:

The hallowing of your name echo through the universe!

The way of your justice be followed by the peoples of the world!

Your heavenly will be done by all created beings!

Your commonwealth of peace and freedom sustain our hope and come on earth.

With the bread we need for today, feed us.

In the hurts we absorb from one another, forgive us.

In the times of temptation and test, strengthen us.

From trials too great to endure, spare us.

From the grip of all that is evil, free us.

For you reign in the glory of the power that is love,
now and for ever. Amen.

Communion

Post Communion Prayer

Gracious God, you have given us much this day: the wheat and grapes which found our feast, the wit and will to be transform them into bread and wine, and the precious presence of your Son who transfigures and redeems all that we have broken and lost.

Send us out now to care for this fragile earth, our island home. Grant us the wit and will to transform the toxic, irreverent ways we live, and the saving presence of your Son Jesus Christ who goes before us and call us into this world you love. To him, to you, and to the Holy Spirit be honor and glory, now and forever. *Amen.*

Closing Prayer

Leader: In the sun's shining disk, God's face is revealed.

All: O Father, we shield our eyes from your glory!

Leader: In the ocean's quiet depths, God's face is revealed.

All: O Mother, we are overwhelmed by your vastness!

Leader: In all things that are, God's face is revealed.

All: O Creator, our minds spin with your variety!

Leader: O Holy One, shine on us, quench our thirst, fill us with your love.

May we reflect your glory in our struggle for justice.

We come before you as your people of the light!

All: Alleluia! Amen.

Acknowledgements –

The opening and closing prayers are adapted from a service written by Christine Hoff Kraemer, the reading from Alice Walker is from "The Temple of my Familiar" (1989) Simon and Schuster, Pubs. The post-communion prayer is from "In Celebration of Creation", Saint Thomas Medina. The Lord's Prayer is taken from the New Zealand Book of Common Prayer.