

WORSHIP RESOURCES

Sentences and Responses

Opening Sentences

Blessed be the Lord God of Israel, who made heaven and earth.

2 Chronicles 2:12a

Christ is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation;
for in him all things in heaven and earth were created.

Colossians 1:15,16b (NRSV)

He has told you, O mortal, what is good;
And what does the LORD require of you
But to do justice, and to love kindness,
And to walk humbly with your God?

Micah 6:8

How beautiful upon the mountains
are the feet of the messenger who announces peace,
who brings good news, who announces salvation,
who says to Zion, "your God reigns!"

Isaiah 52:7 (NRSV)

Look – this is the earth God sets before us!

Deuteronomy 1:8

The earth is the Lord's, and all that is in it, the world, and those who live in it.

Psalms 24:1

The explanation for the goodness of creation is the goodness of God

St. Augustine

This we know: the Earth does not belong to us.
We belong to the Earth.
And the Earth is God's.

Adapted from Chief Noah Seattle

Apprehend God in all things, for God is in all.
Every single creature is full of God and is a book about God.
Every creature is a word of God.

Meister Eckhart

Opening responses – Morning

Let the sun rise in the heavens and give us light,
Let birds praise God with their morning song,
And let God's people say Amen.

Amen.

Let all be put ready for the daytime tasks
Let there be thankfulness in those who work
And let God's people say Amen.

Amen.

Let blossoms open and the pasture grow,
Let the rain fall softly on to hill and dale,
And let God's people say Amen.

Amen.

Iona Community Creation Liturgy

Opening responses – Evening

Let the light fall warm and red on the rock,
Let the birds sing their evening song,
And let God's people say Amen.

Amen.

Let the tools be stored away,
Let the work be over and done,
And let God's people say Amen.

Amen.

Let the flowers close and the stars appear,
Let hearts be glad and minds be calm,
And let God's people say Amen.

Amen.

Iona Community Creation Liturgy

Responses

Sing, O heavens, for the Lord has done it;
Shout, O depths of the earth;

Break forth into singing, O mountains
O forest, and every tree in it.

For the Lord has redeemed Jacob
and will be glorified in Israel

Isaiah 44:23

Opening responses

All who thirst, come to the water.
Come, all who are weary;
come, all who yearn for forgiveness.
The Holy Spirit through Jesus Christ has washed over us,
and our Gracious and Holy God beckons and blesses us.
Drink deeply of these living waters.

Glory to you, O God, glory to you.

You are the fountain of life: refresh us.
You are the cleansing spring: heal us.
You are the well from which we drink and never thirst again: fill us.

Glory to you, O God, glory to you.

Responses

Lord and life-giving Spirit, who brooded over the waters when first the world began:
Make us dead to sin but alive to God.

Who led your people out of slavery through the waters of the Red Sea
and into freedom through the waters of the Jordan:
Make us dead to sin but alive to God.

Who overshadowed the waters of Mary of Nazareth
and caused her to be the mother of God's only Son:
Make us dead to sin but alive to God.

Whose tears were shed at moments of struggling for peace through justice:
Make us dead to sin but alive to God.

Responses

Earth, teach us stillness as the grasses are stilled with light.
Earth, teach us suffering as old stones suffer with memory.
Earth, teach us humility as blossoms are humble with beginning.
Earth, teach us caring as the mother who secures her young.
Earth, teach us courage as the tree which stands alone.
Earth, teach us limitation as the ant which crawls on the ground.
Earth, teach us freedom as the eagle which soars in the sky.
Earth, teach us resignation as the leaves which die in the fall.
Earth, teach us regeneration as the seed which rises in the spring.
Earth, teach us to forget myself as melted snow forgets its life.
Earth, teach us to remember kindness as dry fields weep in the rain.

Ute Indians of North America

Closing responses

Jesus Christ, the first fruits of all creation, the one through whom and for whom all things were made, gave his life that we, and all creation, might have life in abundance.

May we, therefore, go out in joy

and be led back in peace;

may the mountains and hills burst into song before us

and all the trees of field clap their hands.

Isaiah 55:12