

## *Voices Together Hymn Sing Blueprint:*

### **Our Environment - Lament and Creation Care**

**Note for the leader:** *You may wish not to do each resource in this order of worship, and you can certainly substitute elements for your own selections. It is recommended that you choose two or three songs from each section.*

#### **GATHERING**

Prelude - "For the Beauty of the Earth" VT #120

Well known hymn of thanksgiving by English hymn writer Folliott Pierpoint, 1864

Call to worship - "To worship is to stand in awe" VT #855

Jacob Trapp, a Unitarian Universalist minister provides a profound definition of worship.

#### **SONGS OF PRAISE**

"At the Dawn of Your Creation" VT #179

This is a familiar hymn tune with words by Presbyterian pastor, Carolyn Winfrey Gillette, 2011. This hymn is in praise of God's creation and a call to care for it.

"At this joyful celebration may we hear your word anew: may we care for your creation, knowing it's a trust from you."

"God of Wonders" VT #178

A contemporary worship song, produced in partnership by Marc Byrd and Steve Hindalong, 2000. It expresses God's majesty through God's wondrous creation.

"When at Creation's Dawn" VT #121

This song provides a beautifully crafted poem by Mennonite poet Jean Janzen and set to music by Mennonite composer James Clemens.

"When at creation's dawn there was no sound, God hummed a brooding song of birth profound: the symphony of nature all around: Alleluia"

"Planets Humming as They Wander" VT #175

This is an award winning hymn that Heather Josselyn-Cranson wrote for a hymn writing competition at the Boston University School of Theology. It uses numerous musical terms to describe creation, especially in the realm of space. Sally Ann Morris is a well-known composer of hymn tunes. Her music ministry has triggered a passion for sharing the wonderful contemporary liturgical music born in the Catholic Church with Protestant congregations seeking new musical forms of expression in their worship.

“Creation is a song (Ho’e enemeohe)” VT #181

Mennonite musician Doug and Jude Krehbiel were inspired by the writings of Lawrence Hart (US Cheyenne). The text is based on Psalm 19.

“The rolling of the oceans, the bubbling of a spring,  
night sky filled with jewels, a flock of beating wings.  
Creation is a song, a song that we can see.”

“This is God’s Wondrous World” VT #180

This familiar, pillar hymn was penned by Maltbie Babcock in 1901. When living in Lockport, New York, he took frequent walks along the Niagara Escarpment to enjoy the panoramic vista of upstate New York and Lake Ontario scenery. He would tell his wife he was ‘going out to see the Father’s world’, hence the original title “This is my Father’s world.”

Scripture reading - Psalm 104 (excerpts) VT #185

Reading - “God of Cosmos and Quarks” VT #881

Joelle Friesen is from Iowa City, IA. She is an avid reader and lover of words. “God of cosmos and quarks, God of rainbows and roly-polies, God of electricity and enzymes –  
you created the earth and proclaimed it good.”

## SONGS OF LAMENT

“Beauty for Brokenness” VT #712

English songwriter Graham Kendrick wrote this song in response to a visit he had made to India in 1992 and his perception of the contrast between Indian poverty and Western affluence. This is a prayer for compassion and a challenge to end our ‘madness, carelessness, and greed”.

“Touch the Earth Lightly” VT #145

Shirley Erena Murray is a prolific hymn writer from New Zealand.

The themes of her hymns range from social justice, peace, human rights and the voice of women, to the sacraments, the Church year, and eco-theology. ‘Touch the earth lightly’ was written in part as a response to French nuclear testing in the Pacific Ocean region and its impact on the communities in the testing areas.

“As the Waters Rise Around Us” VT #708

Mary Louise Bringle wrote this text in response to Hurricane Katrina. She wrote: “In August of 2005, Hurricane Katrina ravaged the Gulf of Coast of the United States. Scenes on the nightly news showed waters rising to unimaginable heights, flooding cities, destroying lives and livelihoods.  
This is a cry of lament, a prayer to God for mercy.

“O Healing River” VT #706

This prayer for healing has been set to an ancient Israeli melody by Fred Hellerman, born to Jewish parents in Brooklyn, New York. In collaboration with lyricist Frances Minkoff, this song has often been used with services of baptism, anointing and healing, as well as a lament for the earth and its devastation.

Reading - “For failing to love others” VT #893

This prayer comes from the Presbyterian Church ‘Book of Common Prayer’.  
“For plundering the earth, and abusing the planet, God of grace, forgive us.”

Meditate on Artwork - “Tree of Life” VT #12

SaeJin Lee created this artwork. She writes, “We gather at the Tree of Life, which was in the garden and will be with us in the restored creation”. It is a playful depiction of Isaiah 11:6-9 which describes the peaceful reign. SaeJin continues, “By the tree we need not fear, for the Lamb rests in the bosom of the lion, and the child and the adder play together.

Song - “Mountain of God” VT #11

This song compliments SaeJin’s artwork, welcoming everyone to the mountain of God. Phil Campbell Enns is from Winnipeg, and presently pastor at Home Street Mennonite Church.

## **SONGS OF CREATION CARE AND HOPE**

“The Garden Needs our Tending Now” VT #788

Mary Louis Bringle has written another profound text urging us to care for God’s creation. “Earth shall be green and new, Eden restored. She was inspired by the phrase by Hildegard of Bingen, Terra viridissima (Greenest earth)

“Na nzela na lola (As long as we follow)” VT #413

This song from the DR of the Congo encourages us not to lose hope. “As long as we hope there is a future for creation, a future for the universe, God’s reign will surely come.

“Called by Earth and Sky” VT #806

Pat Mayberry is a Canadian singer and songwriter with a passion for melody and harmony. Her songs have been inspired by her personal and spiritual journey and weave together universal themes of love, justice, and healing. Inclusive language and spirituality are key elements in Pat’s work.

“There’s a Wild Hope in the Wind” VT #828

Lora Braun, from Morden, Manitoba, has gifted us with this hopeful song.

In 2015 she was diagnosed with an incurable cancer. The beauty of the earth and her family inspired her right to the end of her life in 2020. "There is a wild hope in the wind, in the skies, in the earth...the future is dim, but we want to live into a wild, wild hope"

Meditate on Artwork - "Mist, Sun, Morning" VT 183

This photograph by J. Tyler Klassen was selected for the theme of creation and covenant because it speaks both to the beauty of creation and to the complex relationship humans have with creation. We are called to be light in the world. The morning star guides us into the day.

"I Sing the Mighty Power of God" VT #182

This is one of the best known hymns by Isaac Watts. His trademark reverence for God's wonders is evident in this hymn.

Reading - "We offer thanksgiving to our Creator" VT #864

This reading is adapted from an Ojibwe six directions prayer by Barb Daniels and Neil van Gunten from Manitoba.

## SONGS OF SENDING

"La paz de la tierra (The Peace of the Earth)" VT #838

This is a Guatemalan text and tune, translated by Christine Carson who works for the Fife Council which is a government organization which promotes healthy diet, reduces food waste, and promotes growing your own food.

"You Shall Go out with Joy" VT #847

The prophecy of Isaiah 55:12 has been set as a contemporary scripture song, full of the energy and excitement of a homecoming. Stuart Dauermann, music director for Jews for Jesus, has been writing Christ-honouring music in a Jewish idiom since the 1960's.

Benediction - "May the warm winds of heaven" VT #1061

This is a 20<sup>th</sup> cent. Cherokee blessing.