

A WORSHIP SERVICE FOR THE OUT-OF-DOORS

(Worshippers will be asked to sit on one side or the other of the worship area depending upon her/his answer to the following question: Does the earth belong to us or do we belong to the earth?)

SONG

This is my Father's world, And to my listening ears
All nature sings, and round me rings The music of the spheres,
This is my Father's world; I rest me in the thought
Of rocks and trees, of skies and seas, His hand the wonders wrought.

This is my Father's world; The birds their carols raise,
The morning light, the lily white, Declare their Maker's praise.
This is my Father's world; He shines in all that's fair;
In the rustling grass I hear him pass, He speaks to me every where.

This is my Father's world, O let me ne'er forget
That though the wrong seems oft so strong, God is the Ruler yet,
This is my Father's world; Why should my heart be sad?
The Lord is King, let the heavens ring; God reigns, let the earth be glad.

INVOCATION

Leader: In the Name of God, the Creator, Jesus Christ, the Redeemer, and the Holy Spirit, the Sanctifier, who has brought us together, all of us and all creation around us, to praise His Name.

People: Amen. Amen. Amen.

PSALM 148

Leader: Praise the Lord!

Left: Praise the Lord from heaven, you that live in the heights above!

Right: Praise him, all his angels, all his heavenly armies!

Left: Praise him, sun and moon; praise him, shining stars!

Right: Praise him, highest heavens, and the waters above the sky!

Leader: Let them all praise the name of the Lord!

Left: He commanded, and they were created;

Right: By his command they were fixed in their places forever, and they cannot disobey.

Left: Praise the Lord from the earth, sea monsters and all ocean depths;

Right: Lightning and hail, snow and clouds, strong winds that obey his command!

Left: Praise him, hills and mountains, fruit trees and forests;

Right: All animals, tame and wild, reptiles and birds!

Left: Praise him, kings and all peoples, princes and all other rulers;

Right: Young men and girls, old people and children also!

Leader: Let them all praise the name of the Lord.

Left: His name is greater than all others; his glory is above earth and heaven!

Right: He made his nation strong, so that all his people praise him, the people of Israel, so dear to him!

All: Praise the Lord!

SONG

All creatures of our God and King, Lift up your voice and with us sing
Alleluia, alleluia!

Thou burning sun with golden beam, Thou silver moon with softer gleam;

Refrain: O praise him, O praise him, Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

Thou rushing wind that art so strong, Ye clouds that sail in heaven along,
O praise him, alleluia!

Thou rising morn, in praise rejoice, Ye lights of evening, find a voice:

Thou flowing water, pure and clear, Make music for thy Lord hear,
Alleluia, alleluia!

Thou fire so masterful and bright, That givest man both warmth and light:

Dear mother earth, who day by day Unfoldest blessings on our way,
O praise him, Alleluia!

The flowers and fruits that in thee grow, Let them his glory also show:

Let all things their Creator bless, And worship him in humbleness;
O praise him, alleluia!

Praise, praise the Father, praise the Son, and praise the Spirit,
Three in One:

PRAYER (Everyone)

Almighty God, Father of mercy, we thank you for all your goodness and loving kindness to us and to all mankind. You create us, keep us and bless us in this life. You showed your love for us above all, by redeeming the world in Jesus Christ. You bring us to life in your grace and fill us with the hope of glory. Make us aware of all your gifts that we may truly appreciate them. We want to praise you not only with our lips but in our lives, by serving you and by walking before you in kindness and justice each day of our lives, through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom with you and the Holy Spirit, be all honor and glory, world without end.

SONG

Refrain: Take care to wonder at the world through which you wander,
Never hurry by an open door.
For you live in a universe full of miracles galore!

Look for God in small things; Drops of rain or a grain of sand.
Praise him whenever you find Him in anything small.

Look for God in bright things; Someone's eyes or the skies at noon.

Look for God in black things; Storms at dusk or a brother's skin.

Look for God in weak things; Newborn deer or a fearful child.

Look for God in wet things; Dewy grass or a glass of wine.

READING - Statement by an Indian

In our (American) society as a whole we conceive of the land in terms of ownership and use. It is a lifeless medium of exchange; it has for most of us, I suspect, no more spirituality than has an automobile, say, or a refrigerator. And our laws confirm us in this view, for we can buy and sell the land, we can exclude each other from it, and in the context of ownership we can use it as we will. Ownership implies use, and use implies consumption. But this way of thinking of the land is alien to the Indian. His cultural intelligence is opposed to these concepts; indeed, for him they are all but inconceivable quantities. This fundamental distinction is easier to understand with respect to ownership than to use, perhaps. For obviously the Indian does use, and has always used, the land and the available resources in it. The point is that use does not indicate in any real way his idea of the land. "Use" is neither his word nor his idea. As an Indian I think: "You say that I use the land, and I reply, yes, it is true; but it is not the first truth. The first truth is that I love the land; I see it is beautiful; I delight in it; I am alive in it."

LESSONS Psalm 24
Colossians 1:15-20

(The worshipers are asked to sit in silence with eyes closed, feeling the environment around them.)

(The worshipers are then asked if they would answer the original question the same way now. If they would answer it differently, they can change sides once they have given a reason.)

SONG

For the beauty of the earth, for the glory of the skies,
For the love which from our birth over and around us lies;

Refrain: Christ our God, to Thee we raise This our sacrifice of praise.

For the beauty of each hour of the day and of the night,
Hill and vale, and tree and flow'r, Sun and moon and stars of light.

For the joy of ear and eye, For the heart and mind's delight,
For the mystic harmony linking sense to sound and sight,

For Thyself, best Gift divine! To our face so freely given
For that great, great love of Thine, Peace on earth and joy in heaven.

HOMILY

PRAYER AND LORD'S PRAYER

SONG

Beautiful Savior, King of Creation, Son of God and Son of Man!
Truly I'd love thee, Truly I'd serve thee, Light of my soul, my joy, my crown.

Fair are the meadows, Fair are the woodlands, Robed in flowers of blooming spring;
Jesus is fairer, Jesus is purer, He makes our spirit sing.

Fair is the sunshine, Fair is the moonlight, Bright the sparkling stars on high!
Jesus shines brighter, Jesus shines purer, Than all the angels in the sky.

Beautiful Savior, Lord of the Nations, Son of God and Son of Man!
Glory and honor, praise, adoration, Now and forever more be thine.

BENEDICTION