

SO CAL
A ROCHA
Restoring people and places

Church in Creation: A Worship Resource

Overview: This service begins with a **Welcome** and moves on to **Singing**¹ and **Reading** from the Christian tradition. After that we disperse for individual silent **Wandering and Wondering in God's creation** (typically 20-30 minutes). We then gather at a prearranged signal to **Share** observations and reflections and **Pray** (silent or aloud). All are invited to celebrate our **Communion with God, others, and God's creation**. We end with **Announcements** and a **Blessing**.

Feel free to participate as much or as little as you wish. It's OK to heed an inner calling to, for example, stay in meditation, even if the group follows the schedule.

Welcome: *(Leader) Please gather in an outward-facing circle (or semicircle) and enjoy a few minutes of silent stillness together as we settle into this place with these people. Please face inward now. May the peace of these people and this place and the peace of God the Creator be with you. Let us pray. (Leader blessing of people and place.)*

Singing: *(Leader or others) We'll join with the rest of creation in praise to our Creator.*

¹ [Carolyn Winfrey Gillette](#) has many great hymns about God's creation set to commonly known tunes.

Reading: *(Leader or others)* We will hear the wisdom of others and the Word of God.

Wandering and Wondering²: *(Leader)* As Jesus went alone into the wilderness to encounter God, so do we. If a small token of creation's mysteries and beauty speaks to you, bring it back *(but nothing alive)* to place at the altar.

Share from Creation: *(ALL)* We wait in silence to listen to those who wish to share learnings from *Wandering and Wondering*.

Share from the Soul: *(ALL – as you wish)* After any verbal request for prayer *(joys or sorrows)* we will all say **“We lift this to you God of Creation.”**

Prayer: (Together) We know that sometimes we offend you God, and hurt ourselves, others, and the rest of your creation. *(A time of quiet silence follows.)*

(Together) We own our intentional and unintentional failings and ask forgiveness and your strength to better love you, ourselves, others, and the rest of your creation.

(Leader) I have good news! Your failings are forgiven, you have a new start. As Jesus said, “Go and sin no more.” May you be made whole and brought anew into the peace of God. **Amen.**

² The leader may share strips of paper with quotes or scripture about creation for those who wish to have a focus. There are many sources - one is [here](#).

Communion with God, Others, and God's Creation

Altar Construction and Offering: *(Leader)* After the Altar is created you may place your offerings of God's gifts from the creation and of money to support this ministry.

(Leader) God is with us!

(ALL) **We are with God!**

(Leader) Rejoice!

(ALL) **We do rejoice!**

(Leader) Give thanks to our Creator God!

(ALL) **We give God thanks and praise!**

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

(Together) From before time you made all creation. Your Spirit moved over the deep and through Jesus you made all things: sun, moon, and stars; earth, wind, and water; every living thing. You made us co-creators in your image, but we rebelled. Thankfully, as a mother cares for her children, you did not forget us.

(Leader) Holy of Holies, remembering our oneness with all that exists and all that has life, it is a joyful thing to be in your presence at this place, with you, each other, and with all creation.

(Together) It is miraculous that we and this whole world are here. We who spin on an insignificantly small planet, in an immeasurably vast universe, are carbon, hydrogen, oxygen, and more. We are miracles, obviously kin with all life, and with your special mark too. This symbolic meal is also a miracle: of seeds in soil, watered, sprouted, and harvested.

(Leader) Jesus, through whom all things were made, made this meal, and he liked eating with outcasts and sinners, so you and I and all people are welcome to eat here. Once he compared his body to bread and his blood to wine. He then gave up his body and blood on the cross to reconcile all things back to God. He gives us this bread and wine to remember him. Remember that Christ came to renew us and the whole world. Eat and remember that he died to reconcile all things back to God, including you, to be made new and sent forth in love to heal the world as he was sent. If you wish, come forward and dip the bread into the wine and eat, then return to the circle.

(Together) God of abundance and vast diversity, you have fed us with the bread of life and the cup of love. You have reunited us with yourself, Christ, one another and your creation. Now, like Jesus, send us forth in the power of your Spirit that we may proclaim your love and be a blessing to you, others, and the rest of your creation.

Announcements *(Leader).....*

Blessing *(Leader) According to scripture:*

Jesus, who has "created all things," knows you and wants you to know him. Jesus, who "sustains all things" and "holds all things together," sustains and holds you. Jesus, who is the "heir of all things" is "making all things new," including you.