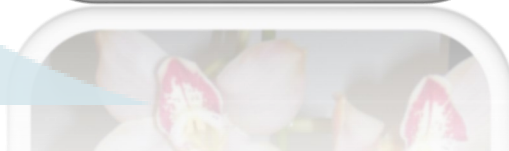


Spring

Given in Love, To be Cared for in Love.



Spring

In conjunction with the Orthodox Church, Pope Francis has declared 1 September as “World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation.” In the southern hemisphere this is the first day of Spring, and in this ritual we celebrate Spring as gift, given in love, and to be cared for in love.

Spring marks the turn of the season even though Winter may still be in evidence. As the season progresses, the morning sky will brighten earlier, birds will be shrill in the care for their newborn, new seedlings will sprout, and gardens will bloom with a range of colours. O God, we celebrate these changes secure in your promise of ever-renewing life as fixed in the rhythms of creation. Praise be to our Creator God!



Opening Prayer

Creator God, giver of life, we thank you for the miracle of this new day. The winter season is now past, its grevilleas, banksias and wattles will soon fade, dropping seeds for propagation in the coming months. Our lives are bounded by the seasons and intertwined with the rhythms of nature. It is with praise and thanksgiving that we worship you present in Earth and beyond. It is with gratitude for your gifts that we respond to your call to us to care for your world. **Amen**

Psalm 125. This is one of the readings of 6 September. It reminds us about the mountain-like steadfastness of God, who looks kindly on the good, and not so kindly on those who do wrong. This also applies to our care for creation or the lack of it.


“Those who trust in God are like Mount Zion which cannot be moved but abides forever, As the mountains about Jerusalem, so God is round about God’s people, from this time forth and forever more. For the sceptre of wickedness shall not rest upon the land allotted to the righteous, lest the righteous put out heir hands to do wrong. Do good, O God, to those who are good, and to those who are upright in their hearts! But those who turn aside upon their crooked ways, God will lead away with evil doers. Peace be in Israel! “

Commentary

While as the people of God we are called to put our trust in the Creator and Sustainer of Earth, we are equally called to examine our own practices and consumption habits to ensure that the “land allotted to the righteous” may not be cut off by human folly. The Creator God is also the Redeemer God who calls and empowers all people to practice new disciplines of righteousness in a newly challenging environment.

Let us Pray: Gracious God, as we live into this season, we remember that your provision for us is abundant. Through the wonders of the natural world we have more than we can ever need. Forgive us those times when we have not been mindful that we are interconnected with all of creation and have consumed selfishly whatever we thought we wanted. Fill our hearts with gratitude for creation so that we will forgo the temptation to hoard, to profit from, or assume power over food, water, the production of energy or materials that provide shelter for others. In your love, hear our prayers, and lead us in simple living. **Amen.**

Spring



Harbinger of hope,
fleeing winter's cool abode,
in teasing playfulness
you dance, into the lightness of being,
exuberant upon the earth
like a garden nymph, aglow with joy.
Through hibernating doors,
warm rays of filtered light invade
dark and secret homes, till
sleepy, stirring creatures
stretch and smile all knowingly
at your mischievous mirth.

Tender shoots push upward
all eager for new life,
and through the chocolate soil
as though to hide in winter's night
an earthworm squirms and bees alight
on straight-backed stamens,
there to suck their nectar sweet.
Unfolding buds and ripening fruits
con-celebrate Spring's dawning,
their gowns aglow with seamless truth
that winter's work is done.

But human work is far from done
for we have only but begun
to see our blinded ways;
to own the truth of our addictions,
our quest for power and domination.
Oh Spring, teach us your renewing truth,
your ever-vibrant, lavish grace
that we too, might be clothed anew
in joyous celebration. (Gail Pritchard)

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This reflection is influenced by resources developed by Ecochurches WA

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