



# Sustaining God's Creation

Closing Worship including words from Hildegard of Bingen.

Slides prepared by Rev'd Imogen  
Nay, free to re-use in a worship  
context.

## Opening Prayer

Let us recognize the presence of our God:  
Creator, Redeemer and Sustainer, who is with  
us now.

**Your Presence is in my life  
Your Presence is all around me  
Your Presence is peace**

**Your Presence is in my house  
Your Presence is all around me  
Your Presence is peace**

**Your Presence is in my work  
Your Presence is all around me  
Your Presence is peace**

The Cry of the Deer, David Adam

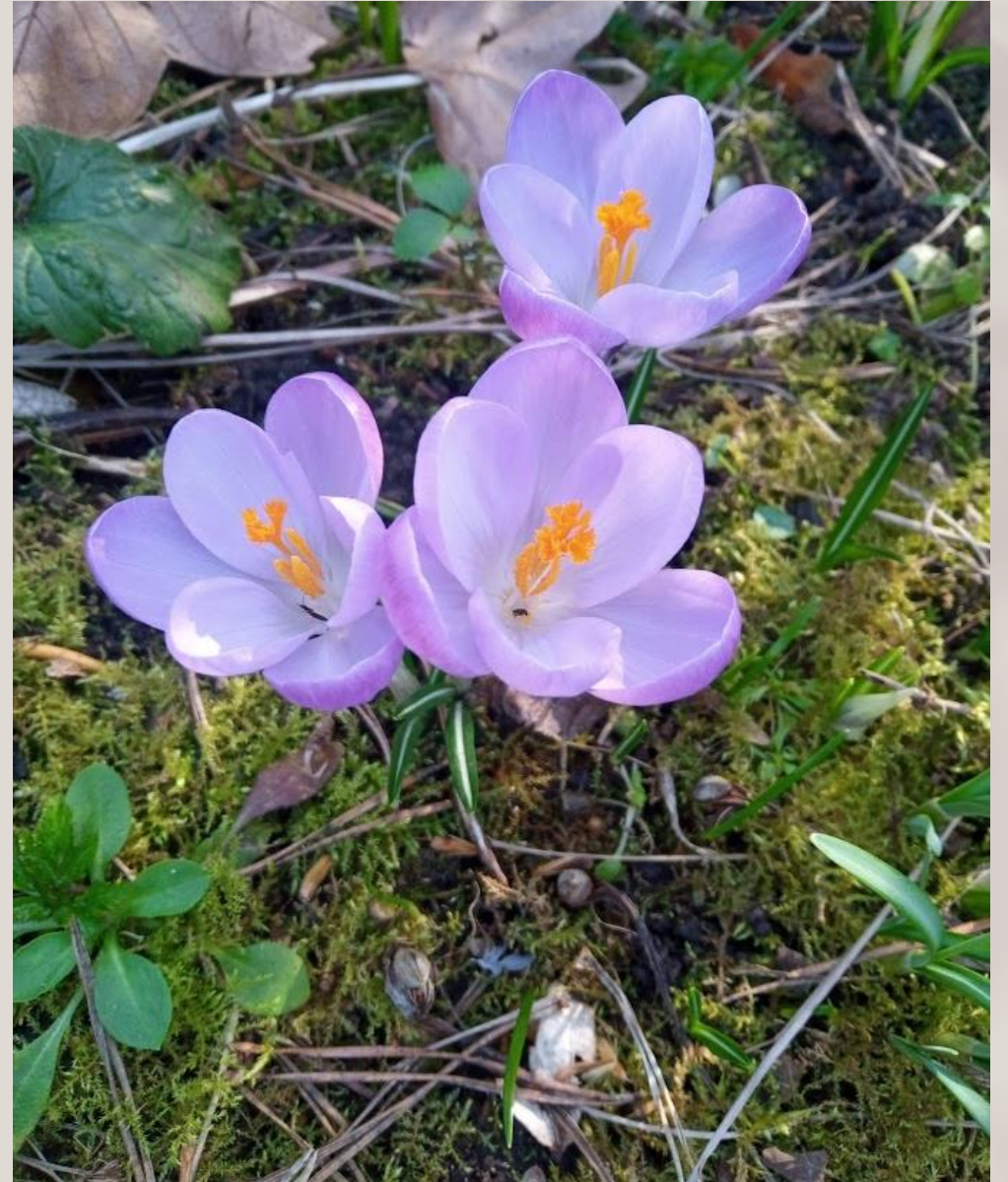
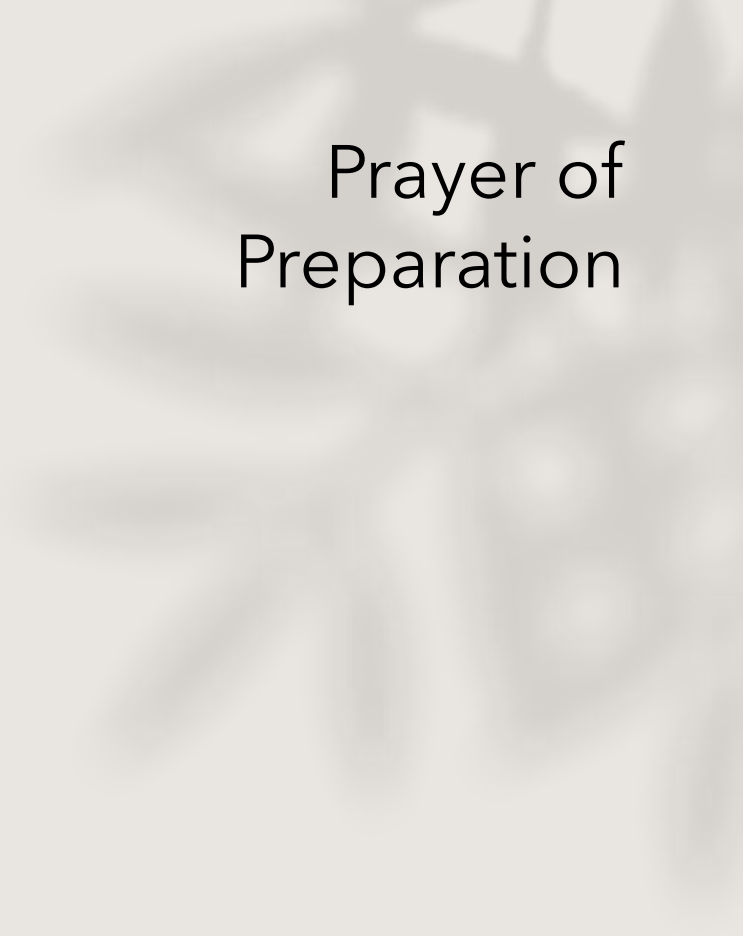


Photo by author





## Prayer of Preparation

Where do you need to  
feel the vital force of  
God's energy in your life  
today?

Let us recognize the presence  
and vitality of the Holy Spirit  
who gives life to all things...

***Oh fire of the Holy Spirit,  
life of the life of every creature,  
holy are you in giving life to  
forms...***

***Oh boldest path,  
penetrating into all places,  
in the heights, on earth,  
and in every abyss,  
you bring and bind all together  
From you clouds flow, air flies,  
Rocks have their humours,  
Rivers spring forth from the waters  
And earth wears her green vigour***

*From 'O ignis Spiritus paracliti' cycle of music, Hildegard*



vitality

fecundity

lushness

verdure

Growth

Free image on pixabay: <https://pixabay.com/photos/tree-nature-wood-sunset-light-3822149/>



## Readings

### Jeremiah 12:10-13 (NRSV)

- **10** Many shepherds have destroyed my vineyard;  
they have trampled down my portion;  
they have made my pleasant portion  
a desolate wilderness.
- 11** They have made it a desolation;  
desolate, it mourns to me.  
The whole land is made desolate,  
but no one lays it to heart.
- 12** Upon all the bare heights in the desert,  
spoilers have come,  
for the sword of the LORD devours  
from one end of the land to the other;  
no one shall be safe.
- 13** They have sown wheat and have reaped thorns;  
they have tired themselves out but profit nothing.  
They shall be ashamed of their harvests  
because of the fierce anger of the LORD.

## Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew 1


The root cause of all our difficulties lies in human selfishness and human sin. What is asked of us is not greater technological skill but deeper repentance, or metanoia, which in the literal sense of the Greek word signifies 'change of mind'.

The root cause of our environmental sin lies in our self-centredness and in the mistaken order of values that we inherit and accept without any critical evaluation. We need a new way of thinking about our own selves, about our relationship with the world and with God. Without this revolutionary 'change of mind', all our conservation projects, however well intentioned, will remain ultimately ineffective. For we shall be dealing only with the symptom, not with their causes. Lectures and international conferences may help awaken our conscience, but what is truly required is a baptism of tears.

*Quoted in Earth Gospel, Sam Hamilton-Poore*





A wide-angle photograph of a beach completely covered in a thick layer of plastic waste. The trash includes numerous white plastic bags, crumpled pieces of plastic, and some colorful fragments. The sand is barely visible beneath the sea of debris, which stretches far into the background. The lighting is somewhat dim, suggesting an overcast day or late afternoon.

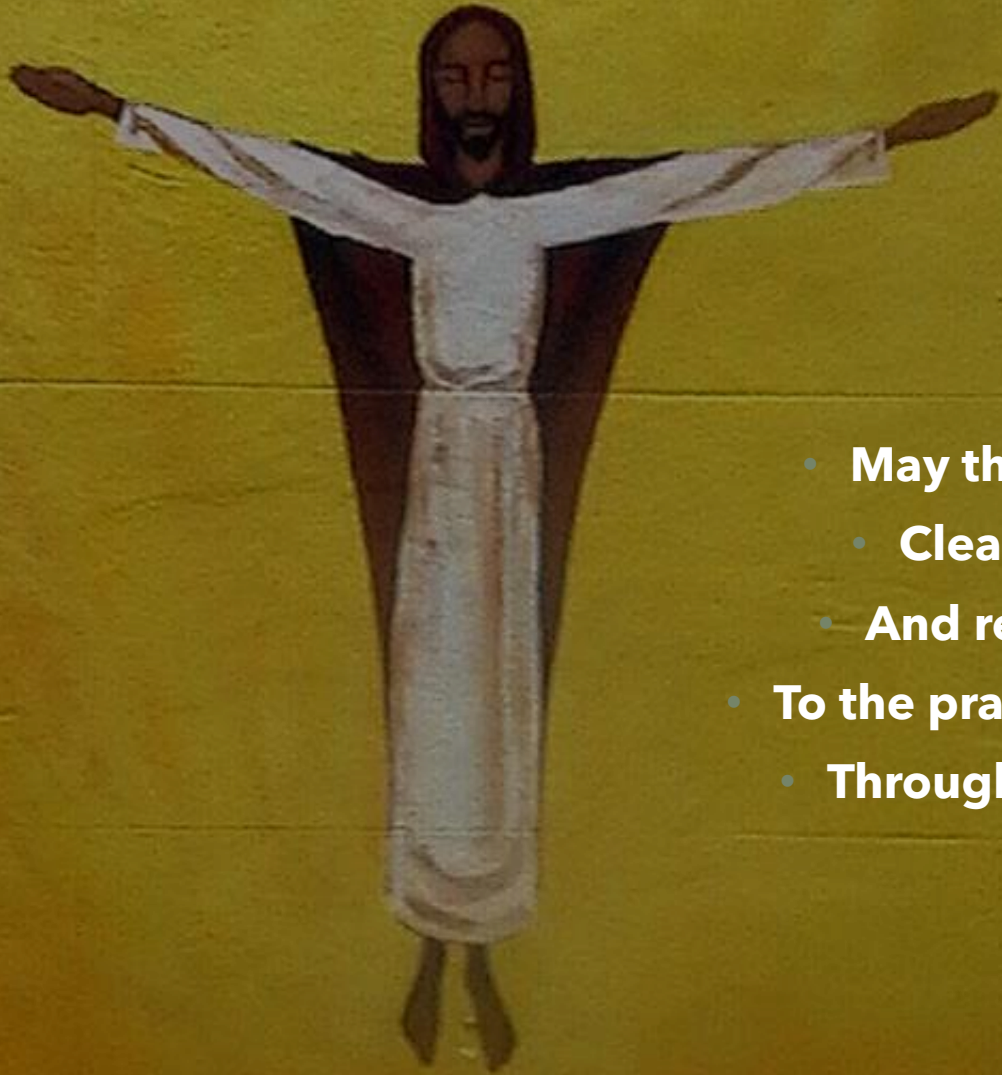
- **Now all the winds are filled with the decay of leaves, and the air spits out pollution so that people can hardly open their mouths anymore. The greening force (viriditas) has weakened because of the ungodly erring of deluded human souls. They follow only their own desires and shout: 'Where is this God, whom we never get a chance to see?**

- Hildegard, MV III 2-3

Confessing where we fall short of  
God's love for the whole of  
creation.

In what ways might  
you 'turn around' and  
re-orient yourself so  
that you are in right  
relationship with God,  
other people and the  
whole of creation?





- **May the father of all mercies**
  - **Cleanse us from our sins**
  - **And restore us in his image**
- **To the praise and glory of his name**
- **Through Jesus Christ our Lord.**
- **Amen**



**The soul is like a wind that waves over herbs,  
Is like the dew that moistens the grass  
Is like the rain-soaked air that lets things grow.**

**In the same way you should radiate kindness  
To all who are filled with longing.**

**Be a wind, helping those in need.  
Be a dew, consoling the abandoned.  
Be the rain-soaked air, giving heart to the weary,  
Filling their hunger with instruction  
By giving them your soul.**

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# Intercession

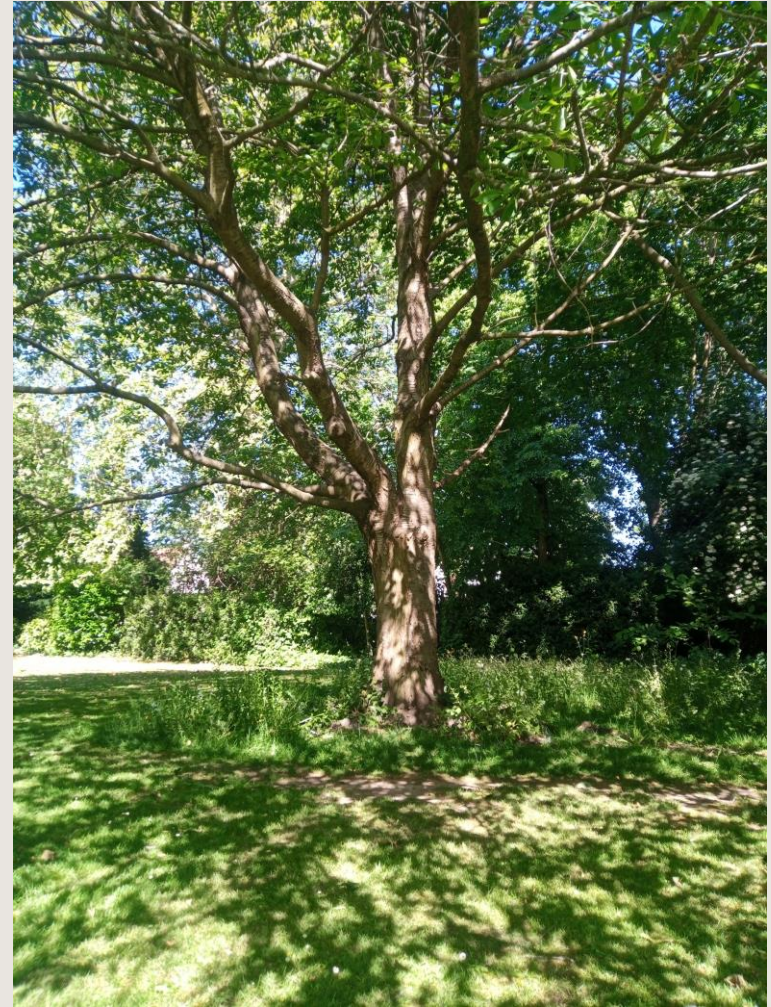
We raise before God those who are in need, those who have been abandoned, those who are weary and those who are hungry.

We raise before God all the creatures of His creation.

We recognize God's hand in the whole of the cosmos.

## The Lord's Prayer

Our Father in heaven,  
hallowed be your name,  
your kingdom come,  
your will be done,  
on earth as in heaven.  
Give us today our daily bread.  
Forgive us our sins  
as we forgive those who sin against us.  
Lead us not into temptation  
but deliver us from evil.  
For the kingdom, the power,  
and the glory are yours  
now and for ever.  
Amen.





# An Act of Commitment for the Care of Creation

*From A Time for Creation, Church of England*

'While all creatures stand in expectation, what will be the result of our liberty?'  
(Thomas Traherne)

As the whole of creation looks with eager longing for the redemption of humankind, let us pledge ourselves anew to serve our Creator God, the Father who is the maker of all things, the Son through whom all things are made, and the Holy Spirit, the giver of life, who renews the face of the earth.

Let us affirm our commitment to care actively for God's creation.

**Lord of life and giver of hope,  
we pledge ourselves to care for creation,  
to reduce our waste,  
to live sustainably,  
and to value the rich diversity of life.  
May your wisdom guide us,  
that life in all its forms may flourish,  
and may be faithful in voicing creation's praise.**

**May the commitments we have made this day,  
be matched by our faithful living. Amen**



Image by Olav  
Knuppel