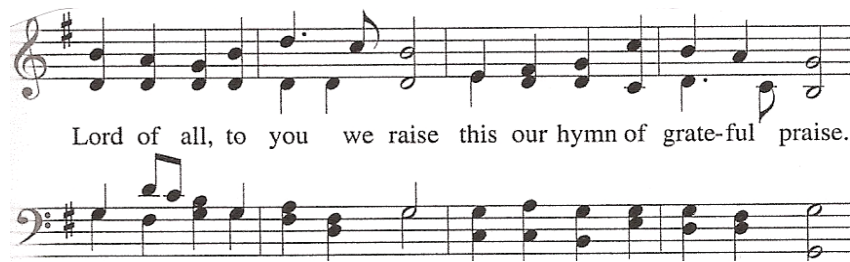


Stations of Creation

The Stations of Creation are a sequence of prayer reflections based upon objects observed in God's natural world. Intended to enlarge both our gratitude and our stewardship, it is helpful if the rite can be experienced outdoors. It may be celebrated either individually or in a small group, but if the latter, a leader can be appointed to casually direct the journey, having done simple prior planning to map out a suitable route. Each station makes use of:

- A **natural object**, to be viewed if possible
- A **Bible passage**, to be read aloud by the/a participant after stating the station's title
- A **word picture** (if in a group), shared by a member of the group, that may bring others a spiritual application
- A **prayer**, brief and spontaneous
- A **response**, sung if possible; included here is the refrain from the hymn *For the Beauty of the Earth*. (The *Kyrie Eleison* may be used instead, or a contemporary song such as *God of Wonders*). Upon completion, the entire hymn may be sung.

~~Richard G. Mylander



Earth

Scripture: (Instruction: A reader states the station title and reads the text aloud.)
*The earth is the Lord's and everything in it, the world and all who live in it.
For God founded it upon the seas and established it upon the waters.*

~~Psalm 24:1

A Word Picture: (Instruction: "Think of an image that conveys a spiritual truth about this item. For example, who remembers seeing that first photograph taken of the earth from the surface of the moon? In spite of the earth's enormous size, its complexity and its problems, how fragile and vulnerable it looked to us in that photograph. How different things can be from God's perspective.")

A Prayer (Instruction: A participant will volunteer a prayer.)

A Response: (Instruction: The line may be sung or stated.) Lord of all, to You we raise this, our hymn of grateful praise.

Sky

Scripture:

O Lord, our Lord, How majestic is Thy name in all the earth, Who hast displayed Thy splendor above the heavens! When I consider Thy heavens, the work of Thy fingers, the moon and the stars, which Thou hast ordained, what is man, that Thou dost take thought of him? And the son of man, that Thou dost care for him? Yet Thou hast made him a little lower than God, and dost crown him with glory and majesty! ... Your steadfast love is higher than the heavens, and your faithfulness reaches to the clouds. Be exalted, O God, above the skies, and let your glory be over all the earth.

~~Psalm 8:1, 3-5; 108:4-5

A Word Picture

A Prayer

A Response: Lord of all, to You we raise this, our hymn of grateful praise.

Light

Scripture:

Then God said, "Let there be lights in the expanse of the heavens to separate the day from the night, and let them be for signs, and for seasons, and for days and years." And it was so. And God made the two great lights, the greater light to govern the day, and the lesser light to govern the night. He made the stars also. And God placed them in the expanse of the heavens to give light on the earth, and to govern the day and the night, and to separate the light from the darkness. And God saw that it was good. And there was evening and there was morning, a fourth day

~~Genesis 1:14-19

A Word Picture

A Prayer

A Response: Lord of all, to You we raise this, our hymn of grateful praise.

Wind

Scripture:

A tempest arose on the sea, so great that the boat was being swamped by the waves; but Jesus was asleep. And they woke him up, saying, "Lord, save us! We are perishing!" And he said to them, "Why are you afraid, you of little faith?" Then he got up and rebuked the winds and the sea; and there was a dead calm. They were amazed, saying, "What sort of man is this, that even the winds and the sea obey him?"

~~Matthew 8:24-27

A Word Picture

A Prayer

A Response: Lord of all, to You we raise this, our hymn of grateful praise.

Water

Scripture: *God wrought wonders before our fathers, in the land of Egypt, in the field of Zoan. He divided the sea, and caused them to pass through; And He made the waters stand up like a heap. Then He led them with the cloud by day, and all the night with a light of fire. He split the rocks in the wilderness, and gave them abundant drink like the ocean depths. He brought forth streams also from the rock, and caused waters to run down like rivers. ~~Psalms 78:12-16*

A Word Picture

A Prayer

A Response: Lord of all, to You we raise this, our hymn of grateful praise.

Fire

Scripture: *But who can endure the day of His coming? And who can stand when He appears? For He is like a refiner's fire and like fullers' soap. And He will sit as a smelter and purifier of silver, and He will purify the sons of Levi and refine them like gold and silver, so that they may present to the Lord offerings in righteousness. Then the offering of Judah and Jerusalem will be pleasing to the Lord, as in the days of old and as in former years. ~~Malachi 3:2-4*

A Word Picture

A Prayer

A Response: Lord of all, to You we raise this, our hymn of grateful praise.

Rock

Scripture: *And some of the Pharisees in the multitude said to Jesus, "Teacher, rebuke Your disciples." And He answered and said, "I tell you, if these become silent, the stones will cry out!" ~~Luke 19:39-40*

A Word Picture

A Prayer

A Response: Lord of all, to You we raise this, our hymn of grateful praise.

Tree

Scripture: *There was a tree in the midst of the earth, and its height was great. The tree grew large and became strong, and its height reached to the sky, And it was visible to the end of the whole earth. Its foliage was beautiful and its fruit abundant, and in it was food for all. The beasts of the field found shade under it, and the birds of the sky dwelt in its branches, and all living creatures fed themselves from it. ~~Daniel 4:10-12*

A Word Picture

A Prayer

A Response: Lord of all, to You we raise this, our hymn of grateful praise.

Crop and Climate

Scripture: *For as the rain and the snow come down from heaven, and do not return there until they have watered the earth, making it bring forth and sprout, giving seed to the sower and bread to the eater, so shall My word be that goes out from My mouth; it shall not return to Me empty, but it shall accomplish that which I purpose, and succeed in the thing for which I sent it.*

~~Isaiah 55:10-11

A Word Picture

A Prayer

A Response: Lord of all, to You we raise this, our hymn of grateful praise.

Food and Drink

Scripture: *Jesus said, "Look at the birds of the air, that they do not sow, neither do they reap, nor gather into barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not worth much more than they? And which of you by being anxious can add a single cubit to his life's span? ...Do not be anxious then, saying, 'What shall we eat?' or 'What shall we drink?' for your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things. But seek first His kingdom and His righteousness; and all these things shall be added to you."*

~~Matthew 6:26-27, 31-33

A Word Picture

A Prayer

A Response: Lord of all, to You we raise this, our hymn of grateful praise.

Beast

Scripture: *Ask the animals, and they will teach you; the birds of the air, and they will tell you; speak to the plants of the earth, and they will inform you; even the fish of the sea will declare to you. Who among all these does not know that the hand of the LORD has done this? In his hand is the life of every living thing, even the breath of all humankind.*

~~Job 12:7-10

A Word Picture

A Prayer

A Response: Lord of all, to You we raise this, our hymn of grateful praise.

Woman and Man

Scripture: *So God created humankind in his image, in the image of God he created them; male and female he created them. God blessed them, and God said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth and subdue it; and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the air and over every living thing that moves upon the earth." ...And it was so. God saw everything that he had*

made, and indeed, it was very good. And there was evening and there was morning, the sixth day. ~Genesis 1:27-28, 30, 31

A Word Picture

A Prayer

A Response: Lord of all, to You we raise this, our hymn of grateful praise.

Decay

Scripture: *For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven: a time to be born, and a time to die... All flesh is grass, and all its loveliness is like the flower of the field. The grass withers and the flower fades when the breath of the LORD blows upon it. Surely the people are grass. The grass withers, the flower fades, but the word of our God stands forever.*

~Ecclesiastes 3:1; Isaiah 40:6-8

A Word Picture

A Prayer

A Response: Lord of all, to You we raise this, our hymn of grateful praise.

Faith, Hope and Love

Scripture: *You have made known to me the path of life; You will fill me with joy in Your presence... Now abide faith, hope, love, these three; but the greatest of these is love.*

~Psalm 16:11, 1 Corinthians 13:13

A Word Picture

A Prayer

A Response: Lord of all, to You we raise this, our hymn of grateful praise.

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Optional:

*For the Beauty of the Earth, F.S. Pierpoint*

For the beauty of the earth, for the glory of the skies,  
For the love which from our birth over and around us lies:  
Lord of all to You we raise this, our hymn of grateful praise.

For the wonder 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:  
Lord of all, to You we raise this, our hymn of grateful praise.

For the worth of ear and eye, for the heart and mind's delight,  
For the mystic harmony liking sense to sound and sight:  
Lord of all to You we raise this, our hymn of grateful praise.

For Yourself, best gift divine, to our world so freely giv'n,  
For the great, great love of Thine, peace on earth and joy in heav'n:  
Lord of all to You we raise this, our hymn of grateful praise.

*Canticle of the Sun, A Prayer of St. Francis of Assisi*

Most high, all-powerful, all good, Lord! All praise is Yours, all glory, all honor and all blessing. To You alone, Most High, do they belong. No mortal lips are worthy to pronounce Your name.

All praise be Yours, my Lord, through all that You have made, and first, my Lord, Brother Sun, who brings the day and the light You give to us through him. How beautiful is he, how radiant in all his splendor!

Of You, Most High, he bears the likeness.

All praise be Yours, my Lord, through Sister Moon and Stars; in the heavens you have made them, bright and precious and fair.

All praise be Yours, my Lord, through Brothers Wind and Air, and fair and stormy, all the weather's moods, by which You cherish all that You have made.

All praise be Yours, my Lord, through Sister Water, so useful, lowly, precious, and pure.

All praise be Yours, my Lord, through Brother Fire, through whom You brighten up the night. How beautiful he is, how joyful, full of power and strength!

All praise be Yours, my Lord, through Sister Earth, who feeds us in her sovereignty and produces various fruits and colored flowers and herbs.

All praise be Yours, my Lord, through those who grant forgiveness for love of You, through those who endure sickness and trial. Happy those who endure in peace. By You, Most High, they will be crowned.

All praise be Yours, my Lord, through Sister Death, from whose embrace no mortal can escape. Happy those she finds doing your will! The second death can do no harm to them.

Praise and bless my Lord, and give Him thanks, and serve Him with great humility. Amen.