

Written prayers

Responding to the Creator's call - Confession and absolution liturgy

This liturgy was written specially as part of a whole service on this theme for harvest that the Sanctuary helped to lead for All Saints' Ilkley in October 2014.

When we first used it, images of creation were shown as each 'Leader' section of the confession was read and then the response was shown on screen over the top of an image of the relevant human body during the congregational section (i.e. ear, eye, hands, mouth). A number of the images we used were not our own so we cannot share them here, but you could create the same effect very easily with your own stock images.

In an all-age setting, it works well to ask children to point to the relevant body part as the prayer unfolds too.

Confession and absolution

Leader: Heavenly Father,
The earth is yours and everything in it,
Each thing crafted by your careful hands.
All living things are sustained by you, gently fed, watered and nurtured,
Their beauty and detail displaying your glory;
You make the land, the oceans, the mountains, the forests, the deserts –
A landscape of power and might proclaiming your majesty.
All around us creation calls out your name,

**All: But sometimes we still don't hear you.
Please forgive us.**

Leader: We have places here of such beauty to enjoy,
Standing up high on mountain and moor, breathing in the crisp air,
Looking down at an intricate patchwork of valleys below,
With rivers winding through to refresh the land;
All showing us the amazing hand-woven work of our Creator God.

**All: But sometimes we still don't see you.
Please forgive us.**

Leader: We know you move in thunder and storm, and in the whisper of gentle breeze;
We sense your presence in the fading rays of a sunset;
Your power in the crashing waves on the shore;
And your delight in the colours of a rainbow promise.

**All: But sometimes we still don't feel you.
Please forgive us.**

Leader: We hear a bird pierce the quiet of an early morning,
Singing with bubbling joy at the dawn.
We see the miracle of new life,
And feel our hearts enlarge with hope and wonder.
We know that you call us to proclaim your goodness in these moments,

**All: But sometimes we still don't speak of you.
Please forgive us.**

**Almighty God, we praise you for the beauty and splendour of the world you have created, and for how you speak to us through it.
Thank you that your grace covers the times when we fail to recognise you or make you known.
We come to you now and ask that you would change us, and charge us – to hear, see, feel and speak – in response to our Creator's call.
Amen.**