# Worship Planning

# Creation Time in the Season of Pentecost

## What Is Creation Saying to Us?

# Fifth Sunday (Thanksgiving Sunday), Year B: Depend on Me!

Texts (non-lectionary): Job 12:7–10; Hosea 2:18; Psalm 96:11–13

Submitted by Patti Armstrong

A service to ritualize the intertwining of Divine Creator with all life on Earth and the subsequent dependence which necessitates the holistic, compassionate, and sacredness we share with our planet.

### Beginning

But ask the animals, and they will teach you; the birds of the air, and they will tell you; ask the plants of the earth, and they will teach you; and 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 [God’s] hand is the life of every living thing and the breath of every human being. (Job 12:7–10)

#### Introit

“Mother and God” (*Voices United* 280)

#### Candle Lighting

(*Light an Earth-shaped candle or a mosaic candle of green and blue and brown and white.*)

#### Call to Worship

Small sounds whisper

**Listen.**

Deep ocean stirs

**Listen.**

Wind carries life

**Listen.**

All across Earth

seeds startle awake

inside trees and pools and rocks and beings

and new life begins.

**Listen.**

And hear all sound resonate with the voice of creation saying,

“We are one, depend on me.”

### Welcome

#### Hymn

“Water flowing from the mountains” (*More Voices* 87)

#### Opening Prayer

**One:** We live in

sacred storm times

moving between

holy wind moments.

Too often looking without

longing to discover truth within.

Within where we are inseparable from our Earth.

Within where we are co-joined with creation’s Creator.

Within where we become all and simply is

the everything we call God.

**Many:** Diffuse our confusion creating spirit.

Show us through your infinite wisdom and acceptance

that there is only you—

through whom all life is dispersed and

the truth of our dependence is revealed.

Awaken our inherent connection

so that we can hear you in everything.

### Becoming

#### Breath Prayer

I invite you to choose a simple phrase or word, such as, holy wind, God, life spirit, nature, ocean, love song, tranquility...something meaningful for you.

Slowly and deeply breathe in the word, then breathe out the word three times.

#### Scripture

Read: Hosea 2:18; Job 12:7–10

#### Guided Reflection: Heart song symphony

(*Allow for pauses between images*.)

I invite you to close your eyes.

Centre yourself and take a few deep breathes…

You are at the edge of a forest.

Jesus is there to take you along an awaiting path.

You come to a wide open glade where many have gathered.

There is a large, clear pond in the middle.

There are animals and people, some you know and some you don’t.

You find a place amongst them.

Jesus is with you.

A glow starts to emanate out from his heart.

You look to see it is also coming from yours.

And then you realize it is coming from everything in the glade:

the people, the animals, the trees, the stones, the pool.

This golden light is showering the glade with brightness.

It is warm and peaceful, and you feel a new sense of belonging.

Something different and also familiar.

Jesus takes your hand and leads you toward the pool.

Together you stand at the edge of the water and listen.

There is a song coming from the water.

It is simple and beautiful.

As you listen, you notice that the golden light coming from your heart grows brighter.

You are connected to all that resides in the water.

You are connected to all that soars in the sky.

You realize the holy dependence between all creation.

Jesus turns to you and places his hand gently upon your heart.

He kisses your brow and blesses you.

Together you sit beside one another and feel the awesome presence and oneness

of the life that surrounds you and rejoices in you.

Come back to this place when you are ready.

#### Hymn

“Long Before the Night” (*Voices United* 282)

### Belonging

#### Offering

#### Offering prayer

Let the heavens be glad, and let the earth rejoice;

let the sea roar, and all that fills it;

let the field exult, and everything in it.

Then shall the trees of the forest sing for joy

Before the Lord; for [God] is coming. (Psalm 96:11–13)

#### Offering Response

“Lord, Your Hands Have Formed” (*More Voices* 181 v. 1)

#### Prayers of Creation

(*Silence between images is encouraged to provide prayerful reflection.*)

Inside a tree, spirit speaks.

Through bark and seed,

through creatures and breath.

A thousand songs in the forest,

whispering, “Depend on me.”

Inside a river, spirit sings.

Through stone and fish,

through motion and thirst.

A thousand sounds beat in the ocean,

whispering, “Depend on me.”

Inside the round of atmosphere Spirit soars.

Through wings and storm,

through night sky brilliance and passing breeze.

A thousand dreams circle the sky,

whispering, “Depend on me.”

Inside us are seed, breath, thirst, storm, and brilliance.

How can we not nurture that which is simply us in different form?

How can we hear creation above the din of our lives saying, “Depend on me!”

Divine Creator, inseparable from all, lift forward in us our inherent wisdom bestowed by you.

Through you we can feel our connectedness.

Through you we accept that nothing is divided from your heart song.

With hearts wide and hopeful we seek to see ourselves through you.

May our verdant and life-sustaining Earth thrive and may we become the people

we were each born to be.

People of the forest.

People of the rivers and seas.

People of the soil and sky.

People of belonging with the all that is everything.

#### Prayer of Jesus

“A Paraphrase”(*Voices United* page 916)

#### Hymn

“Each Blade of Grass” (*More Voices* 37)

#### Sending Forth

There is a gentle peace between us all.

Listen and you will hear the breath of God in all things.

Find your heart song, realizing that it beats in quiet harmony with all life.

Live through your heart song, accepting its transcendent truth

which will transform our world.

Pause and feel creation’s breath calling,

“Depend on me.”

#### Choral Blessing

“Mother and God” (*Voices United* 280)