



The Word



In the beginning, when God created the universe, the earth was formless and desolate.

The raging ocean that covered everything was engulfed in total darkness, and the power of God was moving over the water.

Reflections

- In 2021, the same Spirit of God hovers over our planet, which is facing a climate emergency.
- People living in poverty are on the frontline of this climate chaos.
- They are losing food, water, homes and family. Every day, people walk further, dig deeper and build stronger to survive. Unrelenting. Determined.
- They battle the worst of a climate crisis they did not create. This is deeply unjust.
- We can all be part of the solution.
- Christian Aid has been working in Kenya since 1997. The climate crisis is having a significant impact on Kenyan communities. Their long-standing partner, Anglican Development Services-Eastern (ADSE), is helping climate-vulnerable communities to adapt and become more resilient to prolonged droughts and poor rains caused by the changing climate.



Rose Katuna Jonathan and her community work together to clear weeds and rubbish from their dam

A Prayer

Lord, bless us with wonder at Creation's glory; bless us with fury at Creation's spoiling; bless us with courage at this critical hour. Amen.



The Word



Then God commanded, “Let there be light” and light appeared.

God was pleased with what he saw.

Then he separated the light from the darkness, and he named the light “Day” and the darkness “Night”.

Evening passed and morning came; that was the first day.

Reflections

- Each morning, the sun rises, and each evening, it sets. Reflect for a moment on that incredible rhythm of life and the enduring promise of sunrise.
- Consider the wonder and beauty of creation which we have the joy of inhabiting.
- People in Kenya, like Florence Muthiani live closer to the Earth than many of us do.
- People like her are experiencing the strongest effects of this climate crisis.
- Consider how we might ensure a light touch on the Earth’s resources and live in closer communion with Creation.



Florence Muthiani goes to collect water as her neighbours' children play

A Prayer

Giver of life, thank you for the light of each day, and for your mercy, new every morning.

Tune us into the rhythm of your will, renewing, restoring and releasing Creation. Amen.



The Word



Then God commanded “Let there be a dome to divide the water and to keep it in two separate places” and it was done.

So God made a dome, and it separated the water under it from the water above it.

He named the dome “Sky”. Evening passed and morning came; that was the second day.

Reflections

- In Kenya, people pray for rain. Rose Katanu Jonathan has to walk 8km to collect water with her donkey, which, because she is old, can take six hours.
- Living with HIV, Rose struggles to eat well because there isn't enough water to grow crops. She is the sole carer for her six grandchildren.



Rose walks for six hours to collect water for her grandchildren

A Prayer

Creator of seas and sky, in this time of climate crisis, as we pour out our feelings, pour in your Spirit of hope and renew our resolve to work together to stop this crisis. Amen.



The Word



Then God commanded, “Let the water below the sky come together in one place, so that land will appear” and it was done.

He named the land “Earth,” and the water which had come together he named “Sea.”

And God was pleased with what he saw.

Then he commanded, “Let the earth produce all kinds of plants, those that bear grain and those that bear fruit” and it was done.

So the earth produced all kinds of plants, and God was pleased with what he saw.

Evening passed and morning came; that was the third day.

Reflections

- Florence lives in Kyeng’e village, a dry part of Kitui county.
- Her community built a dam with help from ADSE. She says, “I have been sustained by the earth dam. My life has changed.
- It has helped me to start beekeeping, plant a garden, and keep chickens because the water is nearby.”
- In the midst of stories of the crisis, we find glimmers of hope that adaptation is possible.



Florence and her nephew Kinywa, at their nearby dam, which their community built thanks to Christian Aid

A Prayer

God of all the earth, you saw the land and called it good.

Help us to work together with you and all of Creation to stop this climate crisis. Amen.



The Word

Then God commanded, “Let lights appear in the sky to separate day from night and to show the time when days, years, and seasons begin; they will shine in the sky to give light to the earth” and it was done.

So God made the two larger lights, the sun to rule over the day and the moon to rule over the night; he also made the stars.

He placed the lights in the sky to shine on the earth, to rule over the day and the night, and to separate light from darkness.

And God was pleased with what he saw. Evening passed and morning came; that was the fourth day.



Reflections

- It can be a joy to marvel at the stars in the night sky, to step back and take a long view.
- We need to take a long view at the wondrous gift of Creation.
- The bigger picture is telling us that global heating threatens to undo the last 50 years of progress in development, global health and poverty reduction, pushing 120,000,000 people into poverty.
- As Martin Luther King said, “The arc of the moral universe bends towards justice.”
- ADSE helps people in Kenya raise their voices about climate chaos and become champions for justice in their communities.



A Prayer

God who spoke stars into being, challenge, awaken and inspire us to raise our voices with the prophets in our call for climate justice today. Amen.



The Word

Then God commanded, “Let the water be filled with many kinds of living beings, and let the air be filled with birds.”

So God created the great sea-monsters, all kinds of creatures that live in the water, and all kinds of birds.

And God was pleased with what he saw.

He blessed them all and told the creatures that live in the water to reproduce, and to fill the sea, and he told the birds to increase in number.

Evening passed and morning came; that was the fifth day.



Reflections

- In Florence’s village, the earth dam has created a microclimate.
- Trees have grown around the dam. And they produce flowers that provide nectar for the bees.
- The women of the community work together and sing a deep, joyful tune, lifting their spirits.
- Desmond Tutu said, “We think of ourselves far too often as just individuals, apart from one another; whereas we are connected, and what we do affects the whole world.”
- Let us reflect on our joyful interconnectedness with humanity and all of Creation.



Schoolchildren collect water from an earth dam

A Prayer

Creator God, thank you for the community of Creation, for the wonder of sea creatures, for the magnificence of birds in flight, and for the whole family of humanity.

Transform our individual isolation into natural interconnection for the flourishing of all, and the glory of your holy name. Amen.



The Word

Then God commanded, “Let the earth produce all kinds of animal life: domestics and wild, large and small” and it was done. So God made them all, and he was pleased with what he saw.

Then God said, “And now I will make human beings; they will be like us and resemble us. They will have power over the fish, the birds, and all animals, domestic and wild, large and small.”

So God created human beings, making them to be like himself.

He created them male and female, blessed them and said, “Have many children, so that your descendants will live all over the earth and bring it under their control. I am putting you in charge of the fish, the birds, and the wild animals. I have provided all kinds of grain and all kinds of fruit for you to eat; but for all the wild animals and for all the birds I have provided grass and leafy plants for food” and it was done.

God looked at everything he had made, and he was very pleased. Evening passed and morning came; that was the sixth day.



Reflections

- We read here of the vast array of creatures God has created to share a home on Earth.
- In Kenya, when there is plenty of water, families and their livestock can prosper.
- Rosalia Kusungo Ndangihi used to walk from 6am to 6pm to collect water; but now it takes just 30 minutes.
- She says, “We are making ourselves the first on the frontline of climate change. I feel that it’s my earth dam; so I am happy.”
- Reflect how, working together, we may be able to tackle the roots of inequality, allowing life on Earth to thrive.



Rosalia Kusungo Ndangihi is a climate change champion in Kenya

A Prayer

Jesus, water of life who quenches our thirst, become in us a spring that gushes up to eternal life, that all may drink deeply from your abundance and all of Creation may thrive. Amen.



The Word

And so the whole universe was completed.

By the seventh day God finished what he had been doing and stopped working.

He blessed the seventh day and set it apart as a special day, because by that day he had completed his creation and stopped working.



Reflections

- God rested when his work of creating was done. This was the true Crown of Creation, the time for pausing, resting and refreshing. This idea of Sabbath rest is a radical alternative to the economic thirst for ever more. The Earth and all that lives on it need time for restoration.
- Rosalia understands the need to restore the land by planting 120 trees.
- With a water point nearby, even the children can come and fetch water, growing little seedlings at home.
- We often seek rest and relaxation in nature.
- As well as admiring the joyful beauty of Creation, reflect on how might our rest help restore the Earth?



Michael Jr proudly holds a tree seedling he is growing with hep from Christian Aid

A Prayer

God of the Sabbath, forgive us for ignoring the rhythms of nature, for overextending the Earth and each other.

Instil in us sustainable ways of resting and enjoying the goodness of Creation, protecting the Earth with all of our brothers and sisters. Amen.