

CREATION SUNDAY RESOURCES // 2026

These Creation Sunday resources are designed to help church leaders lead congregations in worship and reflection around the theme *The Earth Is the Lord's*, grounded in Psalm 24. At the heart of this theme is the biblical affirmation that creation belongs to God and that humanity is called to live as grateful, responsible stewards of what He has made.



The materials include an idea for a sermon outline, suggested hymns and contemporary worship songs, a prayer of response, and some ideas for a corporate practical response that could engage all ages. A short video resource is also provided, featuring stories from local congregations who are responding creatively and faithfully to creation care in their own contexts, offering encouragement and inspiration for others.

While these resources are intended to support a focused emphasis for a Creation Sunday service, it is important to be reminded that creation themes run throughout Scripture. As such, there are endless opportunities to highlight care for God's world across the church year, weaving creation responsibility naturally into ongoing worship, preaching, and discipleship.

If you would like any advice or support with developing stewardship of creation within your congregation then please contact mission@presbyterianireland.org

Bible Reading:

Psalm 24

¹ The earth is the Lord's, and everything in it,

the world, and all who live in it;

² for he founded it on the seas
and established it on the waters.

³ Who may ascend the mountain of the Lord?

Who may stand in his holy place?

⁴ The one who has clean hands and a pure heart,

who does not trust in an idol
or swear by a false god.

⁵ They will receive blessing from the Lord
and vindication from God their Saviour.

⁶ Such is the generation of those who seek him,
who seek your face, God of Jacob.

⁷ Lift up your heads, you gates;
be lifted up, you ancient doors,
that the King of glory may come in.

⁸ Who is this King of glory?
The Lord strong and mighty,
the Lord mighty in battle.

⁹ Lift up your heads, you gates;
lift them up, you ancient doors,
that the King of glory may come in.

¹⁰ Who is he, this King of glory?
The Lord Almighty—
he is the King of glory.

REFLECTIONS ON PSALM 24

The following reflections may be helpful in shaping a Biblical message related to the theme.

The Earth Is the Lord's: *Living as stewards, not owners*

Main idea: *All creation belongs to God; we are caretakers entrusted with His world.*

1/ His Ownership (vv. 1–2)

- Everything in the world—resources, creatures, lands, people—belongs to God. He formed and established the world.
- Included in God's creation is humankind, made in His image and likeness, to whom 'dominion' over creation is given (Gen 1:26). Dominion in Scripture is not understood as ownership, but rather as delegated authority, stewardship and responsibility to act as caretakers of God's creation (Gen 2:15).
- With this authority comes the responsibility to act as God would in caring for, protecting, and preserving His creation.
- We value and protect creation **because it is God's, not ours.**
- We can acknowledge God's ownership in daily practices such as prayer before meals, gratitude in creation and reducing waste.

2/ His Promise (vv. 3–6)

- God desires to be in relationship with humankind. He promises blessing, righteousness and salvation for 'those who seek Him'.
- His invitation to worship His holy presence is for those with clean hands (acting ethically) and a pure heart (right motives). Both are intertwined.
- This refers to all aspects of life, including our responsibility for creation. Our worship means recognising the Lord as the maker and the one to whom the earth belongs.
- **How we treat His creation reflects the condition of our hearts.**
- The pathway towards a pure heart is to seek the face of the God of Jacob.
- We can repent of attitudes in our heart that treat creation as disposable, and look for ways to model small practical habits that are beneficial to it.

3/ His Rescue (vv. 7–10)

- The opening of gates is a symbol of welcome for the King of glory – Jesus.
- When we lift our heads and seek His face, the strong and mighty one is pleased to draw near to us. *Who is he, this King of glory? The Lord Almighty - he is the King of glory*
- When the "King of glory" reigns in us, and as we seek His face, **our lives begin to reflect His priorities.**
- Caring for the earth is one part of living under Christ's lordship, and a foretaste of the renewed creation God has promised.
- What areas of our lifestyle, choices, and habits might need to be submitted to Christ's kingship?
- How might we see creation care as an aspect of our **missional witness**: the world sees God's character through God's people?

HYMNS AND WORSHIP SONGS LINKED TO THE THEME

Traditional Hymns

- *All Creatures of Our God and King*
- *This Is My Father's World*
- *For the Beauty of the Earth*
- *The Earth belongs to the Lord*
- *Beauty for brokenness*

Modern Worship Songs

- **Indescribable** – Chris Tomlin
- **God of Wonders** – Third Day
- **The Earth Is Yours** – Gungor
- **So Will I (100 Billion X)** – Hillsong Worship
- **Creation Sings the Father's Song** – Keith & Kristyn Getty
- **God the Uncreated One**
- **Hear the song of our lament** – Resound Worship
- **Creator God** – Ben Slee (can be sung to the tune of 'Londonderry Air')

Children's Worship Song

- **Creator God** – Nick & Becky Drake

PRAYER OF RESPONSE

Creator God, the earth is Yours, and everything in it—
the seas that roar, the hills that rise,
the creatures that fill the world,
and even our very breath.

Forgive us when we forget that we are stewards and not owners,
when we have used Your creation carelessly
or taken Your gifts for granted.

Give us clean hands and pure hearts
as we seek to live faithfully before You.
Teach us to honour Your world
through the choices we make each day.

Open the gates of our hearts, O King of glory,
that You may reign fully in our lives.
By Your Spirit, help us to care for Your creation as an act of worship
and as a witness to Your renewing love.

May our lives proclaim that the earth is Yours
and that we belong to You.
In Jesus' name,
Amen.

RESPONDING PRACTICALLY

You may wish to engage the congregation in a simple, practical act, immediately following the worship service. Some suggestions are:

- Planting a tree in the church grounds
- Giving everyone a bulb to plant at home
- Launching a 'creation' group for the congregation and inviting people to join it.
- Giving out printed copies of the prayer above (or an alternative) for people to use in their personal or family prayers.

STORIES FROM CONGREGATIONS RESOURCE

A short film has been produced that shares the story of two congregations that are taking responsibility for creation in their locality. Members of First Portadown have been active in transforming a couple of local green spaces close to their church and those from Fitzroy in Belfast, have developed prayer resources with a focus on creation that have benefitted the wider denomination.

Lasting 4 minutes, this film can be shown during a Creation Sunday Service to encourage and inspire a congregation.

The film can be viewed and downloaded from the Creation Sunday webpage:
www.presbyterianireland.org/resources/mission/creation/creation-sunday

BRANDING

A package of branding related to *The Earth Is the Lord's* theme has been produced. This includes the logo in various formats and with a range of background images, along with slide templates for PowerPoint

These can be downloaded from the Creation Sunday webpage:
www.presbyterianireland.org/resources/mission/creation/creation-sunday