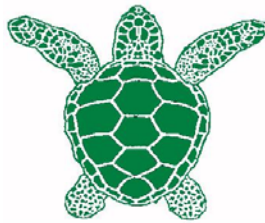


EARTH DAY

Service of Commitment to Honor and Preserve the Resources of the Virgin Islands

April 22, 2009

Vessup Beach
St. Thomas, US Virgin Island



"Learning to be Green"

Nazareth by the Sea
Episcopal Church

www.nazarethbythesea.org

Opening responses

Leader: Let the light fall warm and red on the rock,
let the birds sing their evening song
and let God's people say Amen.

ALL: AMEN.

Leader: Let the tools be stored away,
let the work be over and done
and let God's people say Amen.

ALL: AMEN.

Leader: Let the flowers close and the stars appear,
let hearts be glad and minds be calm
and let God's people say Amen.

ALL: AMEN.

Song: "He's Got The Whole World In His Hands"

He's got the sun and the rain in his hands,
He's got the moon and the stars in his hands,
He's got the wind and the clouds in his hands,
He's got the whole world in his hands.

He's got the rivers and the mountains in his hands,
He's got the oceans and the seas in his hands,
He's got you and me in his hands,
He's got the whole world in his hands.

He's got the whole world in his hands,
He's got the whole world in his hands,
He's got the whole world in his hands,
He's got the whole world in his hands.

Contemporary Readings

Only when the last tree has died and the last river been poisoned and the last fish been caught will we realize we cannot eat money.

Cree Indian Proverb

I conceive that the land belongs to a vast family of which many are dead, few are living, and countless numbers are still unborn.

A Chieftain from Nigeria

There are no passengers on Spaceship Earth. We are all crew.

Marshall McLuhan

There would be very little point in my exhausting myself and other conservationist themselves in trying to protect animals and habitats if we weren't at the same time raising young people to be better stewards.

Dr. Jane Goodall

As crude a weapon as the cave man's club, the chemical barrage has been hurled against the fabric of life.

Rachel Carson

We do not inherit the earth from our ancestors; we borrow it from our children.

Native American Proverb

If a man walks in the woods for love of them half of each day, he is in danger of being regarded as a loafer. But if he spends his days as a speculator, shearing off those woods and making the earth bald before her time, he is deemed an industrious and enterprising citizen.

Henry David Thoreau

Earth provides enough to satisfy every man's need, but not every man's greed.

Mahatma Gandhi

The high,

the low

all of creation

God gives to humankind to use. If this privilege is misused,

God's Justice permits creation to punish humanity.

Hildegard of Bingen

As we grow older we should become not less radical but more so.

Margaret Laurence

To see a world in a grain of sand,

And a heaven in a wild flower,

Hold infinity in the palm of your hand,

And eternity in an hour.

William Blake

The Gospel According to John

Chapter 1

The Word Became Flesh

¹ In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ² He was in the beginning with God. ³ All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being ⁴ in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. ⁵ The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.

¹⁴ And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth.

Song: "How Great Thou Art"

O Lord my God! When I in awesome wonder
Consider all the works Thy hands have made,
I see the stars, I hear the rolling thunder,
Thy power throughout the universe displayed.

**Then sings my soul, my Savior God to Thee;
How great Thou art! How great Thou art!
Then sings my soul, my Savior God to Thee;
How great Thou art! How great Thou art!**

When through the woods, the forest glades I wander
And hear the birds sing sweetly in the trees,
When I look down from lofty mountain grandeur
And hear the brook and feel the gentle breeze...

And when I think that God, His Son not sparing,
Sent Him to die, I scarce can take it in;
That on the cross, my burden gladly bearing,
He bled and died to take away my sin...

When Christ shall come with shout of acclamation
And take me home, what joy shall fill my heart!
Then I shall bow in humble adoration
And there proclaim, my God how great Thou art!

Confession

Leader: O God,
your fertile earth is slowly being stripped of its riches,

ALL: OPEN OUR EYES TO SEE.

Leader: O God,
your living waters are slowly being choked with chemicals,

ALL: OPEN OUR EYES TO SEE.

Leader: O God,
your clear air is slowly being filled with pollutants,

ALL: OPEN OUR EYES TO SEE.

Leader: O God,
your creatures are slowly dying
and your people are suffering,

ALL: OPEN OUR EYES TO SEE.

Leader: God our maker, so move us by the wonder of creation,

ALL: THAT WE REPENT AND CARE MORE DEEPLY.

Leader: So move us to grieve the loss of life,

ALL: THAT WE LEARN TO CHERISH AND PROTECT YOUR WORLD.

Act of Commitment

(during which there will be an action in which we commit ourselves to caring for God's earth or we celebrate the goodness of God's earth)

The Peace

All stand. The Celebrant says to the people

The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People And also with you.

Then the Ministers and People may greet one another in the name of the Lord.

Song: "We Shall Not Be Moved"

**O we shall not, we shall not be moved,
We shall not, we shall not be moved,
Just like a tree that's planted by the water,
We shall not be moved,**

Ending the pollution, we shall not be moved,
Ending the pollution, we shall not be moved,
Just like a tree planted by the water
We shall not be moved.

Chorus

Stopping greed and graft, we shall not be moved,
Stopping greed and graft, we shall not be moved,
Just like a tree planted by the water
We shall not be moved.

Chorus

Standing for these islands, we shall not be moved,
Standing for these islands, we shall not be moved,
Just like a tree planted by the water
We shall not be moved.

Chorus

Eucharistic Prayer

(from Enriching our Worship)

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

...Therefore, joining with Angels and Archangels and with the faithful of every generation, we lift our voices with all creation as we sing:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord,
God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.**

...Therefore we proclaim the mystery of faith:

**Christ has died.
Christ is risen.
Christ will come again.**

...And now let us join hands and say that prayer that Jesus himself taught us.....

Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy Name,
thy kingdom come,
thy will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our debts,
as we forgive those
who debt against us.
And lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom,
and the power, and the glory,
for ever and ever. Amen.

The Breaking of the Bread

The Celebrant breaks the consecrated Bread and then says

*Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;
Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia.*

COMMUNION HYMN: "I've got peace like a river"

I've got peace like a river,
I've got peace like a river,
I've got peace like a river in my soul.

I've got strength like a mountain,
I've got strength like a mountain,
I've got strength like a mountain in my soul.

I've got love like an ocean,
I've got love like an ocean,
I've got love like an ocean in my soul.

REPEAT

After Communion, the Celebrant says

Let us pray.

Celebrant and People

Eternal God, heavenly Father,
you have graciously accepted us as living members
of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ,
and you have fed us with spiritual food
in the Sacrament of his Body and Blood.
Send us now into the world in peace,
and grant us strength and courage
to love and serve you
with gladness and singleness of heart;
through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Closing responses

Leader: This we know, the earth does not belong to us,
ALL: WE BELONG TO THE EARTH.

Leader: This we know, all things are connected,
ALL: LIKE THE BLOOD THAT UNITES ONE FAMILY.

Leader: This we know, we did not weave the web of life,
ALL: WE ARE MERELY A STRAND IN IT.

Leader: This we know, whatever we do to the web,
ALL: WE DO TO OURSELVES.

Leader: Let us give thanks for the gift of creation,
ALL: LET US GIVE THANKS THAT ALL THINGS
HELD TOGETHER IN CHRIST.

Blessing

Celebrant: Bless to us, O God,
the moon that is above us,
the earth that is beneath us,
the friends who are around us,
your image deep within us,
ALL: AMEN.

Song: "This land is your land"

**This land is your land,
This land is my land,
From California
To the Virgin Islands,
From the redwood forest,
To the Gulf stream waters,
This land was made for you and me.**

As I was walking that ribbon of highway,
I saw above me that endless skyway,
I saw below me that golden valley.
This land was made for you and me.
CHORUS

I've roamed and rambled and I've followed my footsteps
To the sparkling sands of her diamond beaches
And all around me a voice was sounding
This land was made for you and me
CHORUS

When the sun come shining, then I was strolling,
And the wheat fields waving, and the dust clouds rolling,
A voice was chanting as the fog was lifting,
This land was made for you and me.
CHORUS