

Creation Sunday

Today's Springbrook Church Value:

“We value the adventure of freely connecting with God through His creation, and recognize that God has entrusted its care to us.”

For today's service, you will walk through the park and choose your own spots to do **five** different meditative exercises/prayers. Take your time, enjoy the day, and experience God as you go.

You'll need: this script, a scrap of paper, pen, small shovel/trowel, seedling tree, communion elements (we used Ritz crackers and a grape juice box), somewhere with trees and water.

Check out Christine Sine's blog for more of these awesome prayers (<http://godspace.wordpress.com/>)

1. Confession

- WHERE: Before descending down the hill
- READ: 1 John 1:5-9—

This is the message we have heard from him and declare to you: God is light; in him there is no darkness at all. If we claim to have fellowship with him and yet walk in the darkness, we lie and do not live out the truth. But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus, his Son, purifies us from all sin. If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.

- ACTIVITY: Take a piece of paper from the package provided, and **write down something you need or want forgiveness for**; something you want to leave behind this morning. **Take that piece of paper and bury it in the ground**, leaving it to God to deal with. What you write on that paper no longer travels with you—you have confessed, and He has forgiven you.
- PRAY:

Eternal God, creator of the universe,
You are more majestic than the mountains
More secure than any rock, more to be desired than any vista
Our trust is in you all the days of our lives

We leave today

going into a future
as yet unmapped
give us faith as we go;
into the parts of our lives not yet travelled by love
into the parts of the world unexplored by grace.
Let compassion and hope be the paths that we follow.
Purify our hearts; forgive our trespasses
Bring us to peace in you.
Today and always
Amen.

2. Engaging the Senses

- WHERE: Somewhere private at the bottom of the hill
- READ: Genesis 1 excerpts—

Then God said, “Let the land produce vegetation: seed-bearing plants and trees on the land that bear fruit with seed in it, according to their various kinds.” And it was so. And God saw that it was good.

And God said, “Let the water teem with living creatures, and let birds fly above the earth across the vault of the sky.” And it was so. And God saw that it was good.

And God said, “Let the land produce living creatures according to their kinds: the livestock, the creatures that move along the ground, and the wild animals, each according to its kind.” And it was so. And God saw that it was good.

Then God said, “Let us make mankind in our image, in our likeness, so that they may rule over the fish in the sea and the birds in the sky, over the livestock and all the wild animals, and over all the creatures that move along the ground.”

So God created mankind in his own image,
in the image of God he created them;
male and female he created them.

And it was so. And God saw that it was good.

- ACTIVITY: Take a few moments to **fully engage your senses** with what’s happening around you. Open your ears, and hear the sounds of creation. Take a deep breath and smell what’s around you. Open your eyes and look in every direction. Feel the ground beneath your feet, and touch the plants around you. When you are ready, take the crackers and juice from the package and prepare for **communion**. Take communion after the prayer.
- PRAY:

The earth is the Lord's and everything in it,
And the Lord's glory covers the earth as the waters over the sea.
The trees of the field clap their hands, the birds of the air sing songs of praise
And if we should fail to express our worship, even the rocks and stones would cry out!

And so, we lift up our hearts, and we lift up our voices
And we offer thanksgiving and adoration to the Lord the Creator of all.
Blessed are you, Sovereign of the Universe,
for from seeds sown into the earth
you have given us the gift of bread to feed and nourish us.

And at Jesus' last meal with his friends, before facing the cross,
Our Lord took bread, blessed it and broke it.
Then he passed it among them saying:
This is my body, broken for you.
Take and eat, and do this to remember me.
The bread is broken in the sight of the people.

Blessed are you, Sovereign of the Universe
for from grapes which grow ripe and sweet on the vine,
you have given us the gift of wine to refresh and heal us.
And at Jesus' last meal with his friends before facing the cross,
Our Lord took the cup of wine and blessed it.
Then he passed it among them saying:
This is my blood shed for you.
Take and drink, and do this to remember me.

May your Spirit work in we, who are children of earth,
so that we may be transformed into Christ's body,
carrying his life, his care, and his salvation to all creation.
Amen.

3. Peace and Quiet

- WHERE: Somewhere you can find a bit of quiet
- READ: Genesis 2:1-3 and Psalm 46:10—

Thus the heavens and the earth were completed in all their vast array. By the seventh day God had finished the work he had been doing; so on the seventh day he rested from all his work. Then God blessed the seventh day and made it holy, because on it he rested from all the work of creating that he had done.

He says, "Be still, and know that I am God;
I will be exalted among the nations,
I will be exalted in the earth."

- **ACTIVITY:** Take your time, close your eyes, open your heart, and see what God has for you. Enjoy His peace and rest, for as long as you need.
- **PRAY:**

I have quieted my soul so that I can hear your voice O God
 I have calmed my spirit so that I can discern your ways
 May I see you, trust you, know you
 Seeking your truth and guidance in all that I do...

O Divine Voice,
 You sing and the universe comes into being;
 O Divine Breath,
 You breathe and all things spring to life;
 O Divine Word,
 You call and creation is sustained;
 O Divine Flesh,
 You are born among us, and the Creator is clothed in creation;
 O Divine Spirit,
 You contain all that has been formed;
 O Divine Life,
 You are the pulse of all that is;
 And so, in faith and expectation, in wonder and rest
 we gather to remember this mystery:
 In you all things live and move and have being,
 In all things, you live and move and express your Divine artistry;
 And so we join with creation in the eternal song of worship and devotion.
 Amen.

4. Find Me in the River

- **WHERE:** Somewhere near the river
- **READ:** Psalm 65:5, 9-13—

You answer us with awesome and righteous deeds, God our Savior,
 You care for the land and water it;
 you enrich it abundantly.
 The streams of God are filled with water
 to provide the people with grain,
 for so you have ordained it.[d]
 You drench its furrows and level its ridges;
 you soften it with showers and bless its crops.
 You crown the year with your bounty,
 and your carts overflow with abundance.
 The grasslands of the wilderness overflow;
 the hills are clothed with gladness.

The meadows are covered with flocks
and the valleys are mantled with grain;
they shout for joy and sing.

- **ACTIVITY:** Find **five stones from the river shore**. Five is a number symbolizing grace. Take each rock and ask God for something you want grace or favour in your life for. Name those things and **throw them into the river**, leaving them with God. What do you need grace for in your life? What do you need God's favour for?
- **PRAY:**

Find me in the river
Find me on my knees
I've walked against the water
Now I'm waiting if you please

We've longed to see the roses
But never felt the thorns
And bought our pretty crowns
But never paid the price

Find me in the river
Find me there
Find me on my knees with my soul laid bare
Even though you're gone and I'm cracked and dry
Find me in the river, I'm waiting here

Find me in the river
Find me on my knees
I've walked against the water
Now I'm waiting if you please

We didn't count on suffering
We didn't count on pain
But if the blessing's in the valley
Then in the river I will wait

5. Moving Forward

- **WHERE:** Somewhere with broken ground, good for planting
- **READ:** 2 Corinthians 5:17 and Psalm 1:1-6—

Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here!

Blessed is the one
whose delight is in the law of the LORD,
and who meditates on his law day and night.
That person is like a tree planted by streams of water,
which yields its fruit in season
and whose leaf does not wither—
whatever they do prospers.

Not so the wicked!
They are like chaff
that the wind blows away.
Therefore the wicked will not stand in the judgment,
nor sinners in the assembly of the righteous.

For the LORD watches over the way of the righteous,
but the way of the wicked leads to destruction.

- **ACTIVITY:** Take the **seedling and plant it** in a good spot as a symbol of our own frailty and reliance on God. Ask Him to protect, nourish, and bless it, and you.

Thanks for participating! I hope this morning has been a good one. Blessings!