

ROGATION WORSHIP RESOURCES

'Human vanity can best be served by a reminder that whatever our accomplishments, our sophistication, our artistic pretensions, we owe our very existence to a 6 inch layer of top soil and the fact that it rains'

IDEAS FOR CELEBRATING ROGATION

Although more obviously an agricultural festival, in an urban setting it might be possible to bless the land that your members cultivate, either garden or allotment or window box. How about using soil and seed from a gardener in the congregation giving thanks not only for seeds that produce food, but also flowers that add beauty.

Or alternatively you could connect to another rogation tradition of 'beating the bounds' and use the service for a prayer walk around the neighbourhood. This could either be a literal walk or pictures of local businesses and buildings such as schools or hospitals, or local people such as councillors, doctors, shop workers, etc could form the focus for prayer as you pray systematically for you neighbourhood. Remember especially the places where church members work either as employees or volunteers.

In a village setting if there is more than one centre of worship how about beginning at one, and then walking around the village stopping at various key points for prayer finishing up at another church for a picnic. This is a festival in which the church can become highly visible and connect with the local community.

OPENING PRAYER

We come before you our God and Sustainer,
remembering that you are our Creator
and the source of all being.
Out of your love the universe was born.
From primordial darkness you put in place all that is needed for growth
and saw that it was good...
You have put this world into our hands:
may we recognise your Spirit within it,
disturbing and challenging us to care for creation,
for the weak and the deprived.
Lord we remember that we are called by you
to nourish the earth and its diversity of life,
to share the gifts you have given, with one another
and with the poor of the world. Amen (*Seasonal Worship from the Countryside*)

PRAYERS OF PENITENCE

Invitation to Confession

Let us ask God to have mercy on our tired land, and to prosper the work of our soiled hands. Let us ask God to forgive our delusion of self-sufficiency so that we may praise him for his provision and goodness

Prayer of Confession

Almighty God, you have created what we humans need to sustain our earthly lives. We confess that we have neglected to care for your creation. We have carelessly used the air, soil and water. We have forgotten how to love. We have forsaken the needs of future generations. We are more concerned with our own interests than the needs of others. Forgive us and set us on a new path pleasing to you.

(Ruth and Dick Schaefer Farm Advocacy Resource Ministries, Northeast Pennsylvania Synod)

Kyries

For forgetting that God is the source of all life and for putting ourselves first

Lord, have mercy

Lord, have mercy

For not noticing the beauty and fragility of the countryside and for harming the environment

Christ, have mercy

Christ, have mercy

For taking food for granted, for not honouring the farmer and for not giving thanks to God

Lord, have mercy

Lord, have mercy

Through Jesus Christ God knows us and accepts us as we are. God hears our prayers and forgives us all our sins. Walk forth renewed and refreshed on the pathway of life.

COLLECT

Almighty God,

whose will it is that the earth and the sea

should bear fruit in due season:

bless the labours of those who work on land and sea,

grant us a good harvest

and the grace always to rejoice in your fatherly care;

through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,

who is alive and reigns with you,

in the unity of the Holy Spirit,

one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

(Common Worship)

INTERCESSIONS

(if possible use these prayers outside so that you can see the areas you pray for, please feel free to adapt as necessary to fit your situation)

We take a moment to look around this village.

We give you thanks for all that makes up this community.

We ask God's blessing on the Parish Church and the Methodist Chapel, the school, the village shop, the village hall and the two pubs.

We ask a blessing on all who live and work here.

The Lord hears our prayer

Thanks be to God

We ask God's blessing on all the farms around this village and for all who work on them.

We give you thanks for the food that is produced and the way that the land is cared for.

The Lord hears our prayer

Thanks be to God

Aware of the blessings that we enjoy we look out to the wider community. We pray for towns and cities where people labour to produce the things we enjoy. We remember those who live in crowded areas and sometimes struggle to get on with their neighbours.

The Lord hears our prayer

Thanks be to God

We ask a blessing on urban land, on allotment and vegetable patch, park and open space.

Giving thanks for the beauty seen in vibrant window box and municipal flower bed.

The Lord hears our prayer

Thanks be to God

We ask a blessing on land far away, on tropical-island, rain forest or bush.
We ask a blessing on distant farmers who labour to send food to our meal tables which
broaden our diet and delight our senses

The Lord hears our prayer
Thanks be to God

We remember those who live in countries where food is scarce and starvation real, where
poverty means that children die young and adults work hard just to survive. Inspire us afresh
to work for justice for all.

The Lord hears our prayer
Thanks be to God

Loving God accept these prayers through Jesus Christ your Son
**and continue to work in us through us and if need be despite us so that your
kingdom may come. Amen**

ROGATION PROVISIONS FOR THE EUCHARIST

Shorter Preface

And now we give you thanks
for your ancient promise
that while the earth endures,
seedtime and harvest, cold and heat,
summer and winter, day and night,
will never cease.

*(Times & Seasons © Archbishops' Council 2006 to be
published by Church House Publishing September 2006)*

Extended Preface

It is indeed right and good
to give you thanks and praise,
Almighty God and Father,
through Jesus Christ your Son.
Through him you have created us in your own image,
and made us stewards of your good creation.
Through him you teach us to exult in the birds of the air,
the lilies of the field, the precious and life-giving crops of the earth.
Through him you free us from the slavery of sin,
giving him to die upon the cross,
and to rise again for our salvation.
Through him, you begin your work of new creation,
as we look for a new heaven and a new earth
in which your righteousness dwells.
Therefore, we join with angels and archangels,
and give voice to every creature under heaven,
for ever praising you and saying.....

*(Times & Seasons © Archbishops' Council 2006
to be published by Church House Publishing
September 2006)*

POST COMMUNION PRAYERS

Creator God you give seed for us to sow
and bread for us to eat:
make us thankful for what we receive
and generous in supplying the needs of others
so all the world may give you thanks and glory,
through Jesus Christ our Lord. *(New Patterns for Worship)*

God our creator,
you give seed for us to sow and bread for us to eat:
as you have blessed the fruit of our labour in this Eucharist,
so we ask you to give all your children their daily bread,
that the world may praise you for your goodness;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. (*Common Worship*)

BLESSINGS

May God the Creator,
Who made us and all living things, and all the marvels
which surround us in the natural world,
bless us our homes and our families,
now and forever **Amen**

God the Father, who created the world,
give you grace to be wise stewards of his creation. **Amen.**

God the Son, who redeemed the world,
inspire you to go out as labourers into his harvest. **Amen.**

God the Holy Spirit, whose breath fills the whole of creation,
help you to bear his fruits of love, joy and peace. **Amen.**

And the blessing ... (*Church in Wales*)

ADDITIONAL ROGATION BLESSINGS

These may be used at any part in the service or perhaps in an outdoor service

(Ruth and Dick Schaefer Farm Advocacy Resource Ministries, Northeast Pennsylvania Synod)

God our Creator, you have ordered seedtime, sunshine, rain and harvest. You have created the seed, soil and water so there may be food for all your people. May we honour and care for these elements that sustain our earthly life. As the food nourishes our body may we be filled with praise and thanksgiving for our Creator.

Psalm 147:7-9

Sing to the Lord with thanksgiving:
Make music to our God on the harps.
He covers the sky with clouds;
**He supplies the earth with rain
and makes grass grow on the hills.**
He provides food for the cattle
And for the young ravens when they call.
Praise the Lord.

Blessing of the seed (seeds are scooped up and poured back)

God you have given us these seeds
They have a past. They are the fruit of the past. They have a present. They are to be planted into your soil. They have a future. They are to bear fruit for the harvest. May the miracle of life within these seeds burst forth yielding a bountiful harvest. Bless the seeds and those who plant them.

Blessing of the soil (soil is scooped up and poured back)

God you have created and given us this soil

The soil serves as the medium for the seed to grow, it cleans water, it regulates climate. It provides warmth, nourishment and support so that new life may emerge. Bless this soil that it may feed and nourish the seed. Bless those who work this soil and harvest they produce.

Blessing of the water (water is poured into a cup and poured back)

God, this water is your creation

Water gives sustenance and nourishment to the soil and the seed. Bless the soil and the seed with gentle rain. Bless this water. Let it come as rain at the right time, in the proper amount so that the seed may flourish and grow. In your mercy send us favourable weather so that the harvest will be bountiful.

Rural Church Support Network for Yorkshire and The Humber – May 2006