



ECO CHURCH  
RESOURCES

WORSHIP  
& TEACHING

# Songs

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think



Creation hymns like Psalms 104 and 148 take us up in the praise that creation offers to God, according to Christian Aid's study *Song Of The Prophets: A Global Theology Of Climate Change*. These prayer poems, originally performed with musical accompaniment, draw us into a vast, shared community of praise. Together we look to the God who is the source of life for the whole of creation.

'The earth is the Lord's and everything in it,' Psalm 24 tells us. We are assured that creation is God's gift to us and to future generations. It is not our entitlement, or ours to abuse. It is in such a reorientation of our imaginations and our lives that we shall find hope.

Writer Stephen Lawhead has conducted a vast amount of research for his novels, which are often based on ancient Celtic culture. He discovered that the Celts of old believed the world was upheld and sustained by a single all-embracing melody. They called it Oran Mor, the Great Music. All creation was part of it.

Prophetic warnings need to be heard, but so also do those poetic voices that are weaving hope from the remains of our failings and our sinfulness – hope for renewal, hope for life. Let the poets and composers summon us to worship in the cathedral of creation, and join in with the Oran Mor.

## SONG OF THE PROPHETS

<http://www.christianaid.org.uk/images/song-of-the-prophets-a-global-theology-of-climate-change-november-2014.pdf>

## THE BARD THE WARRIOR

[arkmusic.com/album/the-bard-the-warrior](http://arkmusic.com/album/the-bard-the-warrior)

do



Use this catchy tune about creation by Judy MacKenzie Dunn in an all-age service

*Every Blade Of Grass*

(Judy Mackenzie-Dunn)

Every blade of grass, every sunset sky, every starry night, every mountain high,  
Every single thing that yours hands have made,  
Gives you glory, gives you glory, gives you praise.

And I ...want to praise you too,  
For no one is as wonderful as you.  
And I...want the world to see  
That the God of all creation is a friend to me.

Every bird that sings, every shining sea, every blooming flower, every towering tree,  
Every single thing that your hands have made,  
Gives you glory, gives you glory, gives you praise

HEAR A SAMPLE OF THE SONG

[itun.es/gb/bDMQ-?i=1051355169](https://www.itunes.com/lookup?id=1051355169)

PURCHASE THE SCORE

<http://www.elevationkids.com/song/every-blade-of-grass>

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do more



Here is a traditional-style creation hymn by Bishop Timothy Dudley-Smith, set to the tune *Kingsfold*, the melody used for the classic *I Heard The Voice Of Jesus Say*

### *The God Who Set The Stars In Space*

The God who set the stars in space  
and gave the planets birth  
created for our dwelling-place  
a green and fruitful earth;  
a world with wealth and beauty crowned  
of sky and sea and land,  
where life should flourish and abound  
beneath its Maker's hand.

A world of order and delight  
God gave for us to tend,  
to hold as precious in his sight,  
to nurture and defend;  
but yet on ocean, earth and air  
the marks of sin are seen,  
with all that God created fair  
polluted and unclean.

O God, by whose redeeming grace  
the lost may be restored,  
who stooped to save our fallen race  
in Christ, creation's Lord,  
through him whose cross is life and peace  
to cleanse a heart defiled,  
may human greed and conflict cease  
and all be reconciled.

Renew the wastes of earth again,  
redeem, restore, repair;  
with us, your children, still maintain  
your covenant of care.  
May we, who move from dust to dust  
and on your grace depend,  
no longer, Lord, betray our trust  
but prove creation's friend.

Our God, who set the stars in space  
and gave the planets birth,  
look down from heaven, your dwelling place,  
and heal the wounds of earth;  
till pain, decay and bondage done,  
when death itself has died,  
creation's songs shall rise as one  
and God be glorified!

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weblink



PORTSMOUTH ANGLICAN

[http://portsmouth.anglican.org/what\\_we\\_do/environment\\_and\\_ecology/worship\\_resources\\_on\\_environmental\\_theme](http://portsmouth.anglican.org/what_we_do/environment_and_ecology/worship_resources_on_environmental_theme)



## Explore contemporary songs about creation

Worship Together is a helpful online resource. You can type in key words like 'creation' and search for songs that focus on that theme. There are also videos that show you how to play the songs. As an example, Indescribable is a popular contemporary song about creation.

## Examine hymns and songs that focus on the environment

The document in a weblink below provides a list of songs and hymns that may be used to accompany a tree-themed service.

## Find out sources that mix old and new compositions

Operation Noah have put together a helpful list of traditional and contemporary hymns that address the subject of creation.

## Discover new artists exploring ancient themes of creation

Michael and Lisa Gungor are accomplished songwriters and multi-instrumentalists who compose contemporary worship songs. Many of their compositions focus on creation. They have even recorded an album called A Creation Liturgy.

## Locate sections on the environment in existing hymnals

There is a specific section entitled Creation And Environment in the new edition of Ancient & Modern: Hymns And Songs For Refreshing Worship.

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### THE CREATION SONG – INDESCRIBABLE

[www.worshiptogether.com/songs/indescribable](http://www.worshiptogether.com/songs/indescribable)

### WORSHIP TOGETHER

[www.worshiptogether.com](http://www.worshiptogether.com)

### A ROCHA SONGS & HYMNS

[atyourservice.arocha.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/06/Songs-Hymns.pdf](http://atyourservice.arocha.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/06/Songs-Hymns.pdf)

### THE LIFE OF TREES SONGS

[atyourservice.arocha.org/en/the-life-of-trees-songs/](http://atyourservice.arocha.org/en/the-life-of-trees-songs/)

### OPERATION NOAH

[operationnoah.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/06/List\\_of\\_hymns.pdf](http://operationnoah.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/06/List_of_hymns.pdf)

### MICHAEL AND LISA GUNGOR

[gungormusic.com](http://gungormusic.com)

### ANCIENT & MODERN HYMNS

[newaandm.hymnsam.co.uk/what-is-included-in-the-new-am.aspx](http://newaandm.hymnsam.co.uk/what-is-included-in-the-new-am.aspx)



## Consider music for listening rather than just singing

Worship doesn't mean we need songs to sing. Sometimes it's even more inspiring and uplifting just to listen. Jeff Johnson offers a whole range of wonderful instrumental music, much of which can be used in a worship setting.

## Use fun songs to help children engage with creation

All God's Creatures Got A Place In The Choir is a song by Bill Staines that celebrates the great variety of wildlife in God's world.

## Engage in worship in God's world

*Outdoor Worship* by Sara and Sam Hargreaves is a resource book of ideas an inspiration to help mixed-age groups, families and churches engage with God in his world. This 52-page, full colour A5 book features space for your own 'field notes', plus biblical reflections and articles on how we can better relate to the earth.

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ARKMUSIC  
[www.arkmusic.com](http://www.arkmusic.com)

BUS SONGS  
[bussongs.com/songs/gods-creatures-place-choir.php](http://bussongs.com/songs/gods-creatures-place-choir.php)

OUTDOOR WORSHIP BOOK  
[engageworship.org/store/outdoor-worship-book](http://engageworship.org/store/outdoor-worship-book)