***Tree-planting Liturgy***

*Let us pray:*

*Stir up your power, O God, and save your good creation. The earth groans in travail. Forests fall, oceans rise, and crops fail. The air is thick with so much burning. Free us from the powerful who destroy the air, water, and land. Frustrate their violence, expose their lies, and overthrow their schemes. Pour out over the earth justice that rolls down like water to nourish the life of the world. Preserve the health of your beloved creation. Strengthen those who serve and protect the garden of this earth. Restore the choir of your creatures and let us sing for joy. Gather us at your river, under the Tree of Life. Send forth your Spirit and renew the face of the earth; in the name of the one who from a wounded tree birthed a new creation, Jesus, our Redeemer.*

**Amen**

**Psalm 148: 1-13A (responsively)**

*Praise the Lord! Praise the Lord from the heavens; Praise Him in the heights!*

**Praise Him, all his angels; praise Him, all his host!**

*Praise Him, sun and moon; praise Him, all you shining stars!*

**Praise Him, you highest heavens, and you waters above the heavens!**

*Let them praise the name of the Lord, for He commanded, and they were created.*

**He established them forever and ever; He fixed their bounds, which cannot be passed.**

*Praise the Lord from the earth, you sea monsters and all deeps,*

**Fire and hail, snow and frost, stormy wind fulfilling His command!**

*Mountains and all hills, fruit trees and all cedars!*

**Wild animals and all cattle, creeping things, and flying birds!**

*Kings of the earth and all peoples, princes, and all rulers of the earth!*

**Young men and women alike, old and young together!**

*Let them praise the name of the Lord.*

**Litany(responsively)**

*As a tree in the forest becomes tall, reaching for the light,*

**May we grow above the shadows of sin, fear, and doubt.**

*As it gives shelter and shade to its friends of fur and feather,*

**So may we help those brothers and sisters that are smaller and weaker than ourselves.**

*The tree sends down roots deep into the soil so that it may be nourished by Mother Earth.*

**May we be as firmly grounded by the love of Christ and sustained by His grace.**

*If a tree falls and decays, it provides nourishment for new plants and gives its place in the sun for others.*

**Our Lord and Savior died to make a new life and a new place for us.**

*When a tree in the forest is cut down, its wood is used for shelter and fuel.*

**Jesus taught that only when life is surrendered when love is poured out, can we build His kingdom and reflect the warmth of His spirit.**

**Amen**

*Let us pray: (A prayer of Archbishop Desmond Tutu)*

*Creator God, you have called us to be keepers of your earth. Through greed, we have established an economy that destroys the web of life. We have changed our climate and we drown in despair. Let oceans of justice flow. May we learn to sustain and renew the life of our Mother Earth. We stand with indigenous people worldwide who are demanding the restoration of their ancestral lands. We pray for our leaders, custodians of Mother Earth, that they may negotiate with wisdom and fairness. May they act with compassion and courage; and lead us into the path of justice for the sake of our children and children’s children.*

**Amen**

**Sources: All Creation Sings, ELW Worship Supplement, United Methodist Book of Worship, and Chalice Worship, Used by permission.**