

## CREATION CARE TFC READINGS

### **Children's Readings:**

1. In the beginning when God created the heavens and the earth, the earth was a formless void and darkness covered the face of the deep, while a wind from God swept over the face of the waters.
2. God saw everything he had made, and indeed, it was *very* good.
3. With a Word, God commanded—and creation came to be and stood firm. Nothing is too hard for God.
4. And in creation, God's eternal power and divine nature are made known to us. What an amazing gift!
5. "Let everything that has breath praise the Lord! Praise the Lord!"

### **Adult Readings:**

1. God spoke—and vegetation, plants yielding seed, and fruit trees of all kinds came forth. God made two great lights, the lesser to rule the night and the greater to rule the day, accompanied by stars. So there was night and day, and God saw that it was good.
2. The Psalmists give God glory for creation and even declare that all things give praise and glory back to God. "The heavens declare the glory of God, and the sky above proclaims his handiwork," says Psalm 19:1.
3. We, the people God made, are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works. Let us show our love for God by caring for what God created and loves.
4. We say with the psalmist, "Worthy are you, our Lord and God, to receive glory and honor and power, for you created all things, and by your will they existed and were created."

## Youth Readings:

1. Then God said, "Let there be light"; and there was light. And God saw that the light was good; and God separated the light from the darkness. God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night.
2. God separated the waters, called the dome sky, and made dry land appear. God called the dry land Earth, and the waters that were gathered together he called sea. And God saw that it was good.
3. Living creatures and birds flying above were spoken into being. God blessed them and said, "be fruitful and multiply," filling sky and earth. On the land God created creatures of every kind, wild animals and cattle and all that creeps on the ground, and saw that it was good.
4. Then God said, "Let us make humankind in our image, according to our likeness; and let them have dominion over life in the seas, air, and land. So God created humankind in his image, male and female. God blessed them and said, "Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth."
5. Creation joins us in worship. Isaiah 55:12 says "For you shall go out in joy and be led forth in peace; the mountains and the hills before you shall break forth into singing, and all the trees of the field shall clap their hands."
6. Scripture emphasizes God's loving expression through creating. And all people are urged to fear the Lord and stand in awe of God!
7. Joining God in creation care is a high act of praise and thanksgiving. It is a statement of appreciation and humility, acknowledging that all creation is intricately woven together and thoroughly inter-dependent.
8. When we pick up trash, recycle, reuse, reduce consumption, exchange shopping and usage habits for better ones, enjoy the outdoors, plant seeds, plants, and trees, and give thanks for every beauty, we are doing good works that God prepared for us, being faithful to our Creator, and remain open to the wonder and joy of being part of God's beloved creation.